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**MESMERISM.**—The following description of a case, in which it would appear that the state of insensibility into which the adepts in this much-controverted science profess to throw their patients has been turned to useful account, has been addressed by Mr. Gardiner, of Roche Court, Hants, to the editor of the *Hampshire Standard*. We make no comment on the circumstances, but content ourselves with transcribing what the writer declares to be a simple narrative of facts:—"Having been interrupted in the course of certain mesmeric experiments by a violent toothache in one of the patients (whom I had exhibited to Drs. Elliotson and Engledue) it occurred to me that the insensibility which is an invariable concomitant of the true sleep-walking state would afford me an admirable opportunity of benefiting the sufferer, and of extending the application of mesmerism. My friend Dr. Engledue obtained the assistance of Mr. Martin, a gentleman who knew little and believed less about mesmerism, and who decidedly questioned the practicability of the proposed operation. He came. In two minutes the patient (a young lady) was in the perfect mesmeric trance, and therefore insensible. Mr. Martin seized the tooth (a molar or jaw tooth) with the forceps, purposely prolonged the wrench (as agreed upon with Dr. Engledue, prior to his visit, in order to test thoroughly the insensibility of the patient), and drew forth the tooth. Not a pang or a symptom of suffering! In a short time I restored the patient to her natural state in the usual manner. Upon being told that the tooth had been extracted, she exclaimed, 'Did I feel it?' a singular greeting to a dentist's ears! Mr. Martin then proceeded to examine her mouth, and suggested the removal of another tooth. The patient laughingly consented, and sat again. In one minute and a half I again entranced her, and she became, of course, insensible as before. The tooth being in an advanced stage of decay was crushed under the instrument, and the remnants were with much trouble extracted. During the whole of this trying operation not a groan or complaint escaped the patient. Shortly afterwards I again restored her, upon which she turned to the glass to ascertain whether or not she had really lost the second tooth! It would be difficult to determine which party evinced the greater degree of delight and astonishment, the one having witnessed a novel and most astounding phenomenon; the other having been unconsciously, almost magically, freed from her tormentors."

**MESMERISM.**—On Friday, the 31st December, at 2 o'clock, p.m., at the Hanover-square Rooms, Mr. JONATHAN DUNCAN will deliver a LECTURE on the PHENOMENA of ANIMAL MAGNETISM, which he will produce without personal contact or any manipulations whatever. He will exhibit the experiments performed by Mr. James Braid, the discoverer of the new system, as witnessed by thousands of persons in Manchester, and faithfully recorded in the truthful and ungarbled reports of all the Manchester newspapers of the current month. At the close of the lecture experiments will be performed on the audience, provided the conditions of the lecturer are honourably fulfilled. Admission, 2s. 6d. Tickets may be obtained at the Hanover-square Rooms.



#### ANIMAL MAGNETISM. Aug 1841

A foreigner named Lafontaine has lately been exhibiting the phenomena of animal magnetism in the Hanover Square Rooms, London. Well-written reports of these exhibitions have appeared in the *Times*. In that journal of Tuesday last the writer describes some extraordinary experiments performed on a boy on the preceding day, in the course of which pins and lancets were stuck into his flesh, strong ammonia held under his nose, and percussion caps fired in his ears, without producing any sensible effect, and then goes on as follows:—

"In the mean time a gentleman of Caius College, Cambridge, and with whose name we were kindly favoured, presented himself, and desired to be magnetized. This gentleman's father was present. M. Delafontaine, through his interpreter, said, that from the appearance of the gentleman, who was a strong young man, about two-and-twenty, sinewy and powerful, he did not think he would succeed in magnetizing him, but that he would try. In about five minutes he was dead asleep. This was a most remarkable case, and excited great interest. When awakened, this gentleman was kind enough to explain to the company all his sensations. He said he was in the first instance a passive patient, but that as soon as he sat in the chair he did every thing in his power to resist the influence of the magnetizer, but that he could not succeed. He complained that previous to his sleep he felt as if about to be suffocated. In fact, the *globus hystericus* was visible, and the sensation was so acute that M. Delafontaine was obliged to remove his stock, for fear of ulterior consequences. A second young gentleman, younger apparently than the last, then desired to be magnetized, and, strange to say, he was also from Cambridge. He obligingly favoured the company with his name. This case was still more decisive than the last. The patient was in a very few minutes rendered perfectly unconscious, and exhibited the usual phenomena. He was awakened by the snapping of a percussion cap at the back of his head, and described to the company the sensations which he had experienced. He said he felt as if about to faint, and that, in fact, the entire sensation was that of a fainting fit without its unpleasant accompaniments. It is remarkable that both these gentlemen, who were of very dissimilar temperaments, should have experienced the same sensations."

"We have thus hastily, and to the best of our ability, without leaning to one side or the other, reported the particulars of this, to us, and we believe to all present, extraordinary exhibition. We still withhold our opinion, though we have no hesitation in saying that the phenomena which we have lately witnessed remain yet unexplained on the supposition of imposture."

**MESMERISM.**—"Am you willin' if I mesmerise you Sambo?" "Sartin I is, Cuffy." Here follow the passes, quite a la Mesmer, and the "community of sensation" is soon established. "Is you gone to sleep, Sambo?" "Yes, Cuffy, fast asleep." "Well, den, what hab I got in my mouff?" tasting a bit of sugar. "How do I know, Cuffy, I'm fast asleep."—*American paper.*

**ANIMAL MAGNETISM.**—We were attracted last evening to the London Tavern for the purpose of hearing a lecture, in which was to be explained, "on physiological and anatomical principles," the phenomena of animal magnetism. Having witnessed so often exhibitions of this character, we must confess that we did not enter the room much prepossessed in favour of the so-called science. The lecturer was a Mr. Jonathan Duncan, who came to London as the representative of a gentleman whom he termed "an eminent surgeon at Manchester," who had, after much laboured research, discovered the mystery which "for so many years has veiled the subject of mesmerism." The lecturer repudiated the idea of the existence of any magnetic fluid in the nervous system, and more especially the possibility of its "oozing out from the palms of the hands or tips of the fingers." Mr. Duncan's explanation of the cause of somnolency, catalepsy, and clairvoyance, was, that the muscles of the eye becoming fatigued, produce congestion of the eye-ball, then of the brain, and subsequently, as a natural result, of the heart and lungs! All that was necessary for the production of these phenomena was to have the eyes fixed upon one object until sleep was induced. Thus, Mr. Duncan observed, any one could magnetize himself at pleasure. The experiments which the lecturer performed to illustrate his theory were singularly unfortunate, and it was evident to all present that the young woman upon whom he operated was not well instructed in her part. Mr. Duncan volunteered to mesmerize any gentlemen present. Three persons, two of whom were medical men, submitted to the ordeal. They were seated on chairs in front of the platform, and were desired to look fixedly at a piece of cork fastened by means of tape to the forehead. This part of the performance occasioned roars of laughter, as the patients were compelled, in order to obey the instructions of the operator, to distort their faces in the most grotesque and ludicrous manner. After remaining in this unenviable position for a quarter of an hour they were released, and, much to the mortification of Mr. Duncan, were found to be "wide awake." The whole exhibition was farcical in the extreme, but had not the slightest claim to be considered as a scientific investigation.

**Magnetism.**—It is recorded and generally believed by Mahomedans, that the tomb of their prophet is supported in the air, at Mecca, by the action of equal and potent load-stones. The possibility of such an occurrence has been justly ridiculed as false and fabulous. Notwithstanding, it appears from the *Leeds Independent*, that it is practicable to suspend a person by these means. Mr. Abraham, a lecturer on this subject, by way of illustration, suspended, by means of an artificial magnet, a young gentleman, who, with the apparatus, weighed upwards of seven stone.

**ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—PRACTICAL TUITION** of the MOST APPROVED METHOD of ELICITING its WONDERFUL PHENOMENA.—TREATMENT of ALL NERVOUS COMPLAINTS with no other REMEDY than MAGNETISM.

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## LECTURE ON PHRENO-MAGNETISM AT WORKSOP.

On Monday evening week, a lecture on phreno-magnetism was given in the New Concert Room, Worksop, by Mr. Spencer T. Hall, of Sheffield, to a numerous and respectable audience. H. S. Wake, Esq. was appointed to the chair, who, in a few well delivered words, introduced the lecturer. Amidst general congratulation, Mr. Hall rose and proceeded to show, ere he commenced his illustrations practically, how irreconcilable in former ages men and mankind were to newly discovered theories, and were disinclined to deviate from existing irrational dogmas, instancing, as satisfactory proofs, those of Galileo, Hervey, &c. He then gave a lucid sketch of phrenology as coupled with magnetism, in which he maintained that the head of a man was surrounded by innumerable faculties or organs, near which was seated or located each particular organ's antagonistic faculty; and that magnetism was undeniably its testing agent, under which influence, development of each faculty could be manifested, at once establishing the close connection of the sciences. Before he commenced experimenting, he would observe that to expound the cause of effects was not his aim, nor in his power, but solely and merely to exhibit, for the good of society, the unspeakable wonders of this invisible agent. Although he had brought two persons upon whom he proposed operating, he trusted they would not tax him with collusion or unfairness; observing that although he might or might not succeed in selecting persons hitherto untried, yet the want of susceptibility, perhaps, would prevent him developing satisfactorily the striking faculties he proposed calling forth. The first subject was a woman, whom he, by manipulation, in three minutes, threw under the influence, and such was the rigidity of her muscles that the united attempt of three persons selected from among the audience could scarcely relax them. The faculties of veneration, joy, adhesiveness, secretiveness, industry, tune, number, suspicion, combativeness, with various others, were wonderfully manifested. When under secretiveness, she abstracted from a gentleman, artfully and with facility, a watch, drawing the guard to which it was attached over the individual's head, afterwards, with sly expression, depositing the prize in her bosom; the organ of conscientiousness was touched, when, showing a most contrite and lachrymal countenance, she returned the property to its rightful owner. Under the faculty of industry, she imitated the occupation of sewing, and when subjected to that of tune, she, with wonderful precision and pathos, executed a song; curious to say, immediately the finger was withdrawn from the organ, that instant she ceased, and on re-touching it, did not recommence the verse or line, but like the rotary movement of a musical box, continued the air from the note at which she left off. Slips of paper were then presented to Mr. Hall by several of the audience, on which the names of the respective faculties wished to be manifested were written, amongst which was that of destructiveness; it would be impossible to delineate the fury and anger exemplified by her during the operation on this faculty, suffice it to say, that unless the lecturer had very adroitly chafed some other organ, the consequences would have lodged a most lasting impression on the operator's phrenological seat; the young woman was then resuscitated, and her pulse found to have varied under the influence from 120 to 95. Mr. Hall wished to observe that he would introduce the young man he was about to practise upon by mesmerising him through the door, and that no appearance of deceit might be shown, he desired any two to appoint a time for producing the effects, when he would retire from the room, accompanied by one to communicate the arrangement. Two minutes was the period fixed upon, when the man, sitting on a chair in the centre of the room, received, to the astonishment of all, the magnetic stroke; the shock was electrical, momentary, every muscle was distended, rigid as a bar of iron. After demesmerising him, he performed the same through a table, at a given time producing a similar phenomenon. Different faculties, as in the case of the woman, were also manifested, to the apparently great satisfaction of the audience. Such was the susceptibility of the young men, that he was magnetised by those persons around him, much to the surprise of all present who were not aware of the fact. Mr. Hall remarked that any one might magnetise, providing his influence his greater than the one he undertakes. He begged to conclude by hoping that he had convinced some amongst the extensive class of sceptics; and that if he had added one mite to the store of general knowledge and use of society, his end would be gained and satisfaction complete. The audience then retired, portraying strong feelings of amazement and interest.

## THE MYSTERY OF MESMERISM AND SOMNAMBULISM EXPLAINED.

Animal magnetism has, for some years, amused and bewildered the lovers of the marvellous. Ridiculed as a mere illusion or delusion, it has nevertheless perplexed the scientific; its effects are too palpable to be denied, but any rational solution of the cause or causes in which they have originated has hitherto eluded detection. The honour of unveiling this mystery was reserved for Mr. James Braid, an eminent surgeon in Manchester, who, having witnessed the recent experiments of Monsieur Lafontaine, in the Athenæum of that town, determined, if possible, to bring the system to the test of physiological and anatomical principles. This gentleman, having satisfied his own mind that he could produce the phenomena *without personal contact*, and even induce sleep when in a different room from the person to be thrown into a state of somnolency, announced a public lecture on the subject, which he delivered at the Manchester Athenæum on Saturday last, before seven hundred persons.

Mr. Braid first placed on the table a common black wine-bottle, in the mouth of which was a cork having a plated top. The individual on whom the experiment was to be performed was seated on a chair, and directed to gaze intently at the cork without winking or averting the eyes. The cork was about two feet from the person operated upon, whose head was inclined backwards, forming with the object an angle of about forty-five degrees. In this position he remained about five minutes, when profound sleep was produced.

The second experiment was completed in the same time. In the third case, a bandage was placed round the head, for the purpose of retaining in an immoveable position a common bottle cork, a little above the root of the nose, as the object to be gazed at, and in about four minutes a complete state of somnolency ensued. In this case was proved the inability of the patient to open the eyelids, although consciousness was in no respect suspended, as he was able to reply distinctly to any question. The fourth experiment failed, either through the noise that prevailed, or owing to the person not fixing his gaze continuously on the object. The fifth was successful, and although the party made a desperate effort to open his eyes, so much as to agitate his whole frame, they remained as though hermetically sealed; when Mr. Braid took from his pocket a wooden ruler, and drew the end of it gently over the upper eyelids of both eyes, when the spell was broken, and the sense of sight restored with perfect ease. These experiments fully demonstrated that the phenomena were perfectly independent of animal magnetism, as in no instance was there the least approach to personal contact or any manipulation.

Having thus convinced the audience that sleep could be produced without pressure of the thumbs or waving of the hands, as employed by Monsieur Lafontaine, Mr. Braid proceeded to explain the *rationale* of his discovery.

The artificial mode of producing sleep is to fatigue the rectus and levator muscle of the eye, which is effected by a continuously strained and intent gaze at an object viewed under an acute angle. Under such circumstances, the irritability of those muscles becomes exhausted, as well as the irritability of the optic nerve; giddiness ensues, a mist rises up before the eye, and sleep ensues. Congestion is induced in the eyes, and carried from them to the optic and muscular nerves of the eye, and owing to their proximity to the origin of the nerves of respiration and circulation, affect them through sympathy, and enfeeble the action of the heart and lungs. The heart, thus acting feebly, is unable to propel the blood with sufficient force to the extremities, and hence their coldness. The blood consequently is accumulated in the region of the heart, and it is thus stimulated; and in order to remove the inordinate load, it is compelled to increase the frequency of its contractions, in order to compensate for the feebleness of its efforts. The brain, head, and face now become congested in consequence, and varied phenomena, resulting from irregularity in the circulation of that important organ, the brain, follow. The inability to raise the upper eyelid Mr. Braid accounts for on the principle of temporary paralysis of the levator muscles, owing to excessive and long-continued exertion at the commencement of the operation.

*ANIMAL MAGNETISM.* By A SURGEON.—London.—This is, on the whole, a very fair compendium of animal magnetism, although the author errs not a little on the side of credulity. However, his object evidently is to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and in his laudable pursuit he imparts a great deal of information. Unfortunately, now and then he does not sift and scrutinize his matter with sufficient acumen. He speaks of what men of wisdom and probity have believed, and yet he knows that there is no absurdity or falsehood, however monstrous, that has not been maintained by men of wisdom and probity. It is, therefore, saying nothing in favour of mesmerism that it has had in its favour the support of a few great names. The same may be said of astrology and witchcraft. The author acknowledges that the most outrageous of the absurdities of one age have been the philosophy of another. The highwayism on human credulity has been immense. This surgeon fairly shows a few, and but a few, of the abominable falsehoods in favour of mesmerism which have been asserted of public characters. The charlatanism of this humbug science, with its mirrors and musical boxes and glasses, and trickery of every description, has been incalculable. The impostor, Mesmer, by his dupery could make nothing until he got the Priests or Clergy on his side, and then he made 400,000 francs as his share; but what he gave to the Clergy for connivance is not stated. The Minister of France offered him an immense sum, so it is said, to establish a College of Mesmerism. In this statement our author is mistaken, because Mesmer was a swindler, and would have grasped at such an offer; and at the time he states it to have been made, the French finances were in the most deplorable condition, and the Minister, Maurepas, fool as he was as events proved, was too cunning to hold out such a contemptible delusion. Every sect in philosophy or religion produces schisms, and among the mesmerites schisms were innumerable. Some maintained that mesmerism was a physical science, others that it was a religious mystery, and whilst one party were stout logical combatants for its being only a remedy for the body, others maintained that it was providentially revealed for the cure, and solely for the cure, of souls; whilst a third party would have it that mesmerism cured body and soul separately or conjointly. One teacher taught that mesmerism could affect trees, imparted from animal man to a tree, and that then the mysterious influence ended; but another school taught that if one tree were mesmerised it could, by sympathies, mesmerise all other trees; but as each intermediate tree could mesmerise only by deputyism, this doctrine was doubted. Cannot this have something to do with the forbidden fruit? One person maintained that all the miracles of the New Testament, and, of course, we suppose the Old, were performed by mesmerism, throwing out of the case whether they were performed at all. The author of this little work, which has, on the whole, a great deal of merit, speaks of the mesmeretic miracles performed at Paris, by Dupotet. What can be cheaper or more vulgar than miracles, provided the miracle-worker can get believers? The Abbé Paris worked hundreds of miracles in a churchyard, until the King forbade him to work any more; and mesmerism will work a prodigious number of miracles, until the good sense of the people destroys it. The author's exposures of Dr. Elliotson's delusions are very fairly stated. Such impositions were never before practised by a respectable man. As to the tricks played by that arch impostor, the Rev. Mr. Townsend, they are beneath contempt; and if this clerical mesmeriser can make men see from the backs of their heads or the napes of their necks or their bellies, he must be either a Saint or a Devil. We closely examined the mesmerising tricks of Monsieur Lafontaine, and more clumsily-performed frauds we never witnessed. They are very well exposed in the little work before us. However great an impostor was this French adventurer, his performances were less disgraceful than the mendacious work of the Rev. Mr. Townshend. Whoever may be the author of the little book before us (he styles himself a surgeon) he has done a public benefit, and we trust that his work will be extensively circulated.

## PHRENOLOGY AND MESMERISM, 3, GREEN STREET, CAMBRIDGE.

**MR. J. TAYLOR, PHRENOLOGIST,** (from London,) begs to inform the Gentlemen of the University Nobility, and Gentry of the Town and County of Cambridge, that he has returned again for a few weeks only, for the purpose of examining the Heads of Ladies and Gentlemen desiring to know exactly their propensities and capabilities. The Science is now indispensable in the Education, training, and placing of Youth in positions suitable to their capacities, and in the government of ourselves, by preventing us from falling into the fatal consequences of an unknown conformation.

J. T. will shortly give a public Lecture on *Mesmerism*, when the various phenomena of the science will be shewn, and one or two persons put to sleep under its power; persons suffering from fits, head-aches, or any nervous debility, (that is not organic) cured by the Mesmeric influence, which is free from pain, and perfectly Elysian in its effects. Apply to Mr. TAYLOR, 3, Green Street, Cambridge.



MESMERISM.—We thought that we had so effectually exposed this wretched and even dirty imposition, that it would die never to revive, and we were not mistaken with respect, at least, to that contemptible impostor, Lafontaine, for being reduced to a paltry repetition of quack tricks upon his French servant, is a proof that his trade, of humbug may become a police case, but cannot be a means of raising the wind. Sorry, however, are we to say that Dr. Elliotson is again exposing himself. We shall not be so uncharitable as to treat Dr. Elliotson as a man wishing "to make a property" out of popular ignorance and delusions, but he really goes far to provoke a suspicion and to justify a conclusion of his absolute want of integrity. We have an account in *The Times* (it is true the lying *Times*) of Monday last, of Dr. Elliotson's inspiring persons by mesmerism to foretell death. Can he not equally mesmerise or fortune-tell all gypsies and other fortune-tellers with the power of foretelling life, its sex, duration, its diseases, accidents, and ultimate fate? Surely, if by mesmerising a person, he or she can foretell the fate of a doctor's patient, he or she, by the mesmeretic influence, may equally foretell the fate of any criminal convicted or under trial. The Doctor informs us that his mesmerised patient, in her delirium, could foretell the death of one of his patients, by her mesmeretic vision of the ill-fated patient's body or soul appearing before him or her in a white sheet. Surely the physician who can say this will soon stand strongly in need of a winding-sheet, and at present must stand under sad necessities of a strait waistcoat. If Dr. Elliotson does not contradict that which *The Times* states about his mesmerism, the only conclusion is, that he is as mad as "a March hare," or something very much worse in a moral sense. Who would have any confidence in a doctor that, instead of calculating the nature of a disease and the consequences of his prescriptions, would foretell the fate of his patient by the white-sheet visions of one of his mesmerised witches or wizards. Dr. Elliotson may shield himself in the contempt in which *The Times* newspaper is held for its total ignorance of science, its destitution of truth, and its general depravity; but papers of less infamy than *The Times* inadvertently copy from its columns, and thus an honourable medical practitioner may be made ridiculous, or even infamous. On Thursday M. Lafontaine appeared in the City for the first time, in order to exhibit his illustration of mesmerism. There was a considerable number of persons present, consisting of several elegantly attired females, and many scientific, medical, and literary gentlemen, provincial as well as metropolitan. The place selected for the exhibition was one of the large rooms at the London Tavern, at the upper end of which a platform was erected, on which were the operator, his interpreter, an electromagnetic battery, &c. A slight-made young man (a foreigner), who has before frequently undergone the ordeal, was first subjected to the process, and a short time reduced to a state of unconsciousness, and thence to that of catalepsy; in each state he received a powerful shock from the battery, but which failed to counteract the effects of mesmerising. After some other tests had been applied, he was led round the room supported by three persons, having all the apparent inanimation of a lifeless corpse! By the command of M. Lafontaine, he was then brought to the condition of a Somnambulist, and suddenly restored to perfect consciousness, without exhibiting the slightest mode of exhaustion. Mr. Reynolds, a surgeon from the country, a powerful, muscular man, volunteered to submit to the operation, stating as his reason that he had formerly disbelieved that mesmerism would produce such effects, but had seen reason to alter his opinion from the sensation which had been produced upon him within these few days, by only a partial operation. But although subjected to magnetising for a quarter of an hour, he was not in the slightest degree affected. Mr. Effingham Wilson, the bookseller; Mr. Clement, jun., of *The Observer*; and Mr. Tricber, a Baltic merchant, were also operated on, but equally proved failures. The Professor then declared that he believed his magnetic power had been absorbed in the first operation. It was also stated by some gentlemen in the room, that the application seldom succeeds in the first instance with any party, and there were some who said it was necessary to be daily mesmerised for three months to insure success; but the majority doubted this assertion. Mr. Grant, the banker, of Portsmouth, stated that he had known some very extraordinary effects to have been produced by magnetism, particularly by Dr. Engledue, and said he was willing to try its effects, but as he was subject to spasms, in case any thing should happen, he would leave his card with the company (this remark excited much merriment). The test, however, was not applied to him. A lad, who had been brought for the purpose, and had been often magnetised before, was then operated on with much effect. The company then separated, after the exhibition had lasted three hours, under the impression that the whole was a decided humbug.



#### MESMERISM IN CONSTANTINOPLE.\*

I chanced one day to witness the ceremonies performed by the magnetizer in the bezestan, which were accompanied by some gesticulations similar to those employed by our more civilized, but, perhaps, less

honest charlatans. Being occupied in cheapening some articles from the varied assortment of old weapons and antique curiosities displayed at Ibrahim Effendi's shop, I was interrupted by the approach of an Arab, ill-favoured and one-eyed, attired in a red-benish and broad white turban, followed by a sickly negress. After the customary salutations of peace and welcome, the Arab observed that the fame of Ibrahim's skill was the theme of general wonder at the khan where he lodged, and that he had come to consult him. To this the other replied with a compliment and renewed welcome, and the Arab then stated that the slave at his heels was certainly possessed of a devil, or under the influence of witchcraft; that, from a lively and intelligent lass, she had become sullen, indolent, and refractory, and that neither kindness nor correction produced any effect upon her. After detailing sundry other symptoms, all tending to prove that the master of evil had taken up his abode in the girl's bosom, the Arab ended by inquiring if the Effendi could work a cure.

This was to question the existence of the very science itself, therefore Ibrahim set aside the article with which he was tempting our poor purse, slipped several beads of his tesbih (rosary) through his fingers, and, with a gentle affirmative motion of his head, replied, "Inshallah!" To this the Arab responded with a similar exclamation; and the negress was then thrust forward by her proprietor. Being seated upon his shopboard, elevated about three feet above the pavement, Ibrahim was enabled to operate without the trouble of displacing himself. The neighbours and passing crowds, either through decorum or familiarity with these performances, averted their heads, or paid no attention, so that I and my Armenian companion were the only observers.

The operation commenced by Ibrahim Effendi looking steadfastly during some seconds at the negress's downcast eyes, as she stood silent and motionless before him. Then slowly waving his hands in circles across her forehead, chest, and abdomen, in order to dispel malignant vapours, he placed them upon her shoulders, and uttered the teshehid (profession of faith). He then spat to the right and left, to ward off any evil eye that might be peering upon his patient, and hending forward, whispered in her ear one of the last chapters of the Koran, especially directed against demons and witches. After this, he blew twice over each shoulder to drive away the foul spirit, in case it might have issued from her ears.

A pause then issued, during which the negress trembled, and became as pallid as it was possible for one of her colour. This was natural. The weather was intensely cold, the poor girl was thinly clad, evidently ill-fed, and suffering from illness and harsh treatment. Presently the operator again slowly raised and waved his hands to and fro, both horizontally and vertically, and then extended them before him, as if they represented an open book, in the same manner as it is customary during certain portions of daily prayer. Having rapidly muttered a few invocations, he drew a small agate-handled knife from his girdle, and, applying the point successively to the girl's eye brows and chest with his left hand, he gently tapped the other extremity with the forefinger of the right, in order to transfix the demon. He then drew the edge repeatedly across her bosom, forehead, cheeks, back, and sides, for the purpose of dissecting her. This being terminated, he carefully wiped the blade and returned it to the sheath.

During the latter progress the negress became much agitated. She gasped for breath. Her chest was disturbed by nervous cramps and rumbling sounds. Tears streamed from her eyes, and she at last opened her mouth with a loud hysteric sob. At this moment the demon deemed it prudent to escape. Such at least was the apparent belief of all three, as there was a simultaneous exclamation of "Mashallah!" (God's will be done), and of "Shuker Allah!" (thanks to God) from the operator; who added, in a half-whisper, "She is cured! It has departed, and probably, entered the mouth of this unbeliever."

Ibrahim Effendi terminated his operations by drawing from his bosom a small piece of bezoar stone. From this he scraped a little powder, wrapped it in a piece of paper, on which he wrote half a dozen words, and gave it to the negress with instructions for its employment. The Arab then put down two piastres, and a fine head of cauliflower, as the fee; and having invoked constant health and increase upon the magnetizer's head, his and his slave departed.

#### MESMERISM. 1844.

*The Morning Herald* describes a visit to Dr. Elliotson, on Monday, in consequence of an invitation to witness an exhibition of mesmerism and clairvoyance, which latter term seems to be but another name for the second sight, a peculiarity in which our neighbours on the other side of the Tweed are thought so remarkably to excel. As what we witnessed, says our contemporary, on this occasion, was, in our opinion, very extraordinary, we shall simply relate the facts, without drawing any inference, or giving any opinion pro or con on the merits of the controversy now so warmly carried on between mesmerists and anti-mesmerists. If there was any collusion between the operator and his subject, it was managed most adroitly, for it entirely escaped our penetration, and we watched with carefulness, we had almost said with suspicion, the whole proceedings. The company being assembled, Alexis, a French youth of about eighteen or nineteen years of age, was introduced and seated in a chair. The operator, M. Marcillet, stood in front of him, and immediately there commenced between them a contention in the process of staring. The youth seemed to lose ground considerably in this encounter, for, after a few minutes had elapsed, he appeared slightly convulsed; his eyes rolled, his breast heaved, and after a few struggling efforts, he closed his eyes and sunk back in his chair, apparently in a state of catalepsy. The operator then proceeded to make certain passes with his hands over the body of the youth, without, however, touching him, and by means of these passes he appeared to render his limbs rigid or relaxed at his pleasure. On one of these occasions, after apparently stiffening his legs and extending them in an horizontal position, he invited the company to test the success of his experiment, and a gentleman actually stood upon the extended limbs of the youth without moving them an inch from their position. Now we say nothing as to the probability of this being a preconcerted trick. It may be possible for an individual, gifted with enormous muscular strength, to effect a feat as surprising as this; but the weak and sickly appearance of the youth is decidedly against any supposition of this kind. His eyes were next bandaged with three cambric handkerchiefs, and the interstices filled with wool in a way which one would think precluded the possibility of his using his eyesight, and he sat down to play at *ecarte*. He commenced, as is usual with this game, by throwing out all the low cards, which he did without the least hesitation, and went through the game with the most perfect precision. A folio book was next interposed between him and his antagonist, and he commenced a fresh game with equal success, and, in addition, actually named a prominent card held by his adversary.—After this, a book consisting of coloured engravings, was held open behind him, and he was asked to describe the plate of a particular page. With some hesitation, and several convulsive movements, he accomplished this in a manner, that is to say, he described the plate as consisting of a church with towers, and a little chapel in the distance. This was so far correct; but it ought to be remarked that the plates in the book consisted of views of ecclesiastical buildings, a fact which it is just possible he might have known previously. Other experiments of a similar nature were subsequently performed with more or less success. For instance, Colonel Gurwood, who happened to be present, pulled a letter from his pocket, which he had just received from the Continent, and folding it up, asked Alexis to tell him the name of the writer. After a long examination of the outside, and applying the paper frequently close to his nose, he said the name commenced with a B. This was correct. He pronounced A to be the next letter; but here he was at fault, it was O. In the whole name, consisting of eight letters, he made three mistakes: thus, for *Bonafith*, he wrote on a slip of paper *Banafell*. Some of the company next asked him to describe the furniture, pictures, &c., of their rooms, which he did apparently to their satisfaction; but we had no opportunity of testing the correctness of his representations in these respects. The various experiments we have described continued for upwards of an hour and a half. We have attempted to give a description of the circumstances as they occurred at this singular exhibition of mesmerism, but purposely draw no conclusions from it, because we conceive that to be the province of a bolder and more experienced hands. All we can say is, that there appeared to be no symptoms of collusion between the operator and his patient; and that if any collusion did really exist, it was managed so artfully as to escape the observation and detection of the company.



## MESMERISM.

On Thursday evening a lecture was given at the Greenwich Literary and Scientific Institution, by Mr. Vernon, on Mesmerism, which has latterly excited great attention, particularly in this district. At eight o'clock the Lecture Hall, which will contain upwards of a thousand people, was crowded to excess. Amongst the company were a great number of ladies, several of the county magistrates, gentry, and professional and scientific men. On the platform, which was devoted to the lecturer, patients and medical gentlemen who intended to take part in the proceedings, were, Dr. Oak, of Blackheath, Dr. Purvis, of Greenwich, and Messrs. Oak, Mitchell, Sherwin, Atkins, Appleton, Smith, and Addison and Hope, surgeons of the Dreadnought Hospital ship, besides a number of medical students from the London Hospital, in the gallery.—Mr. Bennett, silversmith, of Stockwell-street, Greenwich, was unanimously called to the chair, and expressed a hope that, as the subject of the lecture was of the deepest interest, there would be no unfair interruption.—Mr. Vernon then came forward and introduced three Mesmeric patients; namely, the boy Cook, a very intelligent-looking boy, a young man apparently about twenty years of age, and the very reverse in appearance to Cook, and a young woman, apparently about the same age. She was very pale, and having looked timidly round, sat down and appeared to pay great attention to the lecturer's address.—Mr. Smith, jun., who, it will be remembered, Mesmerized Cook, was also present.—Mr. Vernon said, that from the number of persons present, he felt assured a strong interest was felt on the subject of Mesmerism—the cause which had more directly brought him down was the case of the boy Cook, whom he had been requested to visit, and he now came forward more particularly to meet the gentlemen of the medical profession, who had so boldly asserted that it was a delusion from beginning to end—he had no doubt he should show effects which would convince any unbiassed mind that Mesmerism was not a delusion, but deserved to be ranked amongst the sciences. In putting forth those facts he would observe, that it was only under certain circumstances that the effect could be produced, and according to the different temperament of two individuals, at different times. His object was to court inquiry, for to him there was every proof that it was the result and the law of nature. It had been known as animal magnetism. He should only show that this law did exist, and leave it to the medical profession to sift out how it arose and how it could be applied for the benefit of the human species. He regretted the opposition which was so inconsiderately raised against it; but in the present age there was no new discovery made, but men ranged themselves almost instinctively into parties, and support one side or the other without any attempt to elucidate the truth—which discovery could only lead to good, and that man was a moral coward who shrunk pursuing it because it would disarrange previous opinions. (Hear, hear.) Mesmer was the systematizer of what was termed Animal Magnetism, and having discovered the existence of a principle, had pursued his inquiries, and convinced many of the most sceptical. It had been said against the system, that a Commission of Royal Academicians, of Paris, in 1784, to inquire and investigate the proofs of animal magnetism, attributed it all to imagination; but, in 1795, after five years inquiry, another commission, composed almost of the same scientific men, pronounced that such facts did exist; thus, there was opinion against opinion. Unfortunately, there were certain persons in the world possessing a superabundance of self-esteem and combativeness, and also resolutely supported theory against facts. He would instance a case. One of these gentlemen went to a dinner, where he for the first time had some asparagus, and eat the white end; a friend told him he was wrong; but he persisted he was right; when, at length overcome by argument and facts, he kept on saying he ate the white end, because he liked it best, so with these gentlemen who preferred the "white end" of the present argument, "because they liked it best" (laughter). Others, who admitted the existence of the facts, asserted that it had an evil origin. It would hardly be credited, and he would no doubt be considered as romancing, if it were not capable of incontestible proof, that a clergyman had declared that the mesmeric influence was derived from Satan, and that he (the minister) when he heard of such things, could hardly refrain from rushing to the meeting Bible in hand to drive away the fiend. (Laughter and hisses.) The gentlemen who hissed were afraid of the fiend of Mesmerism, or disbelieved what he had stated, but he could assure them that the sermon was preached by the Rev. Hugh McNeill, and published in the "Pulpit." (Hear, hear.) On the contrary, he (Mr. V.) knew another instance, where the wife of a clergyman was restored to health by Mesmerism, when all hope was given up; and she was now dispensing her charity to those around her. Her husband had declared that Mesmerism was the gift of God. Doctors and ministers, therefore, disagreed. Others attributed Mesmerism to the imagination of the patient, or very different causes. The real question, however, was, whether we could cure or alleviate certain diseases or maladies to which the body was subject, and to know how to apply it, must be the result of close self-observation. There was no doubt everybody could exercise the influence; but he wished it to be borne in mind that it ought not to be done by unskilful persons, and he hoped that medical men would make themselves masters of the science, the same as they were bound to do in any other part of their professional education. (Hear, hear.) When they said that Mesmerism only worked on the imagination, yet effected a cure, he would ask them why they did not do something to excite the imagination, and effect a cure without giving so much nasty physic? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He hoped to show that evening what was the effect, and leave it to others to regulate the facts, when proved to exist. (Hear, hear.) They could judge for themselves, and not trust to the guidance of others who could form no judgment. The oldest philosophers had asserted the power of sympathy both on the mind and body. An orator standing before an assembly, commanded by his voice, eye, or hand, and could lead them on to violence or soothe them into a calm, and this arose from the moral sympathy which existed between one and the other. Why then should it be doubted that between some individuals it existed to a greater extent? To define the cause would be as difficult as to explain the doctrine of sound, motion, and light; it might, to a certain extent, be compared to sound; for instance, suppose there were two instruments, one at each end of the Hall, if they were perfectly in unison, and a note was struck on one, the wire would vibrate of the octave in the other. It might be said that every individual was a note, and wherever there was another of a similar temperament and organization, in perfect tune or unison with him, there would be a sympathy between them, although one was in Paris, and the other here; but that was going into the higher phenomena of the subject. He would now proceed to show some striking instances of the Mesmeric coma, —vital attraction in the working state—sympathy of taste and feeling—catalepsy and excitement of the phrenological organs—and should be happy for any of the medical gentlemen to watch the facts. He was in no way interested in passing anything as truth which was not so, and in a matter of such importance, if he were in error, he would be ten times more happy to be convinced than mislead others. In acquiring knowledge they ought not to exercise their intellects separately and exclusively; but throw their intellect into one mass, to discover the truth, and having discovered it, follow it to wherever it might lead. The lecturer concluded his address amidst general applause.

**THE MESMERIC OPERATIONS.**—The lecturer then caused the front of the platform to be cleared, so that no person might be near enough to negative the Mesmeric influence. The female was then seated in a chair facing the auditory. Mr. Vernon requested any two or three gentlemen to stand by during the operations. He hoped to have seen Mr. Hope, who had so positively denied the existence of Mesmeric influence over the boy Cook, come and defend his assertions, if he could. There was a general call for Mr. Hope, who, accompanied by Mr. Addison, another surgeon on board the Dreadnought, stepped on to the platform.—The lecturer, in answer to questions, said he had mesmerized the patient four times before, but never publicly; he had done so six weeks ago at a private soiree, at Dr. Partridge's, in Upper Montagu-street.—Dr. Oak said, that only a few minutes before, the girl said she had only been mesmerized twice; her memory, therefore, was at all events very defective (hear, hear).—Mr. Mitchell: Well, if there is any truth in the argument, I ask the lecturer to mesmerize me. As a professional man, I shall be a better patient (laughter). I must confess I am sceptical, but if I am wrong I am willing to become a convert. The test, however, must be my being subjected to the mesmeric influence, and here I am to submit to it (he seated himself in a chair amidst tumultuous applause, which appeared at first to astound the operator).—Mr. Vernon appealed to the chairman whether it could be expected of him to do any other than appeared in the hills. He had attended, not of his own accord, but by special invitation; neither was he doing it for pecuniary gain. He had no hand in the drawing up of the bill, but had prepared himself to act up to the promise held out in it. He thought he would be doing sufficient in demonstrating what he could do, without attempting that which might be successful, or, from many causes, an utter failure. It was a subject which ought to be acted upon with solemnity and calmness, and not in the manner which the gentleman who had strutted out

and thrown himself into antics, something amounting to mountebankism (hear, hear, and laughter—and cries of "no shuffling"). The person who cried "no shuffling," had put himself *hors de combat*. He kept aloof, and proved he could not approach the subject as a mocker of science. If he applied it to him (Mr. V.) privately, he knew how to treat him. With regard to the gentleman (Mr. Mitchell) he would undertake to say that on any future occasion he would mesmerize him, if he could (hear, and laughter).—Mr. Sherwin said, that by the invitation of the learned professor, they had left the pleasures of private life to meet him on the occasion, and all they asked was a fair opportunity to investigate the matter.—Mr. Vernon: Don't call me a learned professor.—A voice: Hold your tongue, don't quarrel; who can go to sleep in such a noise?—(laughter).—Mr. Vernon: It was not a summons for you to attend. I had no interest in the matter, and have only come to prove facts within my own knowledge. (Hisses and much confusion.)—The chairman called loudly to order, and begged to know whether it was desired that the lecturer should proceed.—Dr. Purvis said it was a matter which ought to be met fairly, calmly, and dispassionately.—It was a matter of great public importance; and, as Mr. Vernon had come to oblige, it was not treating him fairly; they could not tell what these phenomena were, and it was not fair to challenge him to do what he had not professed.—Order having been restored, Drs. Purvis and Oak were called by the audience to act as judges, and give their impartial opinion as to the result of the experiment.—The lecturer then made the usual passes, and in less than one minute she was declared by the operator to be in a state of mesmeric-coma. Mr. Addison and Mr. Sherwin then applied a bottle of strong ammonia to her nostrils and mouth for several minutes. The patient showed but very slight oppression. Mr. Sherwin afterwards unclosed her eye-lids, and introduced his fingers into her mouth without any visible effect, but caused loud cries of shame from many persons. On being called on to state his opinion as to whether the patient was in a mesmeric trance, and after some ambiguous answers, said, "there was more the appearance of a person assuming sleep, than otherwise." She evidently had a will, and responded to the touch. Mr. Vernon said, she was not sleeping the sleep of death, nor was it pretended that she had no will, or imagination; the real question was, was it a mesmeric, or natural sleep, the test of the strong ammonia which Mr. Sherwin had admitted at half the strength, and applied for half the time, would have awoke him out of the soundest natural sleep; could any one, therefore, not subject to some peculiar influence, remain unmoved as the patient had done?—Dr. Oak said he had been thirty-five years in the profession, and he hoped he might venture an opinion on the case; he wished to be convinced whether there was any truth in the matter. But looking at the patient it was evident she was hysterical and not in health; at present she was labouring under hysteria; besides that, he had just previously heard her speak.—Mr. Vernon: Yes, to be sure you did to me.—Dr. Oak (vehemently): When I hear the operator speak to the patient, and who answers rationally, how the devil can you think otherwise than that she is awake? (Loud cries of "Return our money," and great confusion.)—Mr. Vernon: Dr. Oak said that from thirty-five years' experience, he was qualified to decide whether it was a case of Mesmerism or not.—Dr. Oak: I did not say Mesmerism. I don't believe in it, and I won't have words put into my mouth.—Mr. Vernon: It is one of the facts connected with the phenomena.—(Great uproar, and cries of "You are practising a barefaced absurdity—the imposture is sufficiently apparent, &c.")—The Chairman: Shall the meeting be dissolved? (Uproar.) The lecturer, of course, does not expect to make every man here of the same opinion, but he is entitled to a hearing. Those who are dissatisfied, might have their money returned if they left.—(Hear, hear.) Mr. Vernon said he expected to have met with a professional reception instead of the uproarious conduct, which was more like that in the gallery of a theatre than of those met for the acquirement of scientific knowledge—(hear, hear, applause, and hisses). Whatever the general tenor of their minds might be at that time, they were not capable of appreciating any scientific explanation. Unless, therefore, some pledge was given of more orderly conduct, he would not demean himself by continuing the lecture to them. (Great uproar; during which the lecturer led the patient off. He then returned.) Such uproar was truly disgraceful. He must be excused if, after such treatment, he was somewhat excited. He had not run away, but had been performing an act of common courtesy to a young female, who had voluntarily come forward for their particular information. (Hear, hear.) She was not kindly treated by the medical gentleman, and the mesmeric influence had been partially destroyed. (Cries of "It's all a humbug," &c.)—Mr. Wade (of Deptford), said there were two facts which ought to be stated, which were, that Mr. Vernon had come forward purely for the sake of truth, and the next, that the money received for admission was to go to the Institution, and not a farthing went to him (applause).—Order having been in some degree restored, the lecturer said it was quite impossible for him to say what the mesmeric phenomena might now be, as he himself had been excited and flurried by the riot and uproar, and so no doubt had the young man whom he was now about to operate on. He then made the passes, and after a few contortions of the face, he dropped for a moment apparently in a state of coma, but started up and rubbed his eyes. The operator placed his hand on him and let him gently down. He frequently started up, exclaiming, "I am so hot—be quiet—let me go—you are bothering me about being mesmerized again." He then apparently fell into a state of profound coma, and a lengthened conversation took place between Mr. Appleton and the lecturer, as to the tests to be applied.—The lecturer said he had never operated on the lad before, but was told that whilst in that state, he was susceptible of feeling, smell, and partial sight. He could, however, be laid in a state of catalepsy, or one arm could be catalepted and there would be a difference in the pulsation, which he thought would be a sufficient test.—Mr. Appleton said it would not, in his opinion, for he could, by the extension of the muscles of one arm, reduce the pulsation in the other.—Dr. Purvis and Mr. Taylor examined the pulse of each arm, and the difference, when the left arm was in a state of catalepsy, was four beats in a minute, and when reversed, only two beats. The left arm appeared as immovable as a statue; but the most magical change took place by the operator passing his hand slightly, and down it fell instantaneously. At this juncture, a Mr. Harris, a cabinet-maker in South-street, Greenwich, in the most ruffianly way struck the patient a tremendous blow on the hand with a stick; the blow sounded above the buzz and noise of the meeting. In an instant there was a simultaneous burst of indignation, even by those who had been most prominent in their opposition to the lecturer. There were also loud cries of "Turn him out—police—Shame, shame," &c.—and he was pretty roughly handled. Several accidental collisions led to the exchange of blows, and for a few minutes the confusion was indescribable. At length Harris was taken into custody by the police.—Mr. Vernon again appeared: he said, he must absolve every one in the place of any participation in the dastardly conduct of the party who had struck the inoffensive lad whilst in such a state; but he could not think of continuing the lecture that evening, when there was so much excitement, but hereafter he would meet the gentlemen of the profession and their friends as many times as they liked, and explain his knowledge, and he would undertake to mesmerize any of their family.—Mr. Hope should even be the agent; and should mesmerize a person by his, Mr. Vernon's, power and communication; the patient should, also, disclose the taste of whatever he gave to Mr. Hope, or Mr. Hope gave to him. He felt certain of the truth, but could not define it, or reduce it to a principle; it was like the laws of gravitation, motion, and heat, only known to exist; physiology and pathology had been intensely studied for upwards of 2,000 years, and yet there were doubts; mesmerism, therefore, ought not to be condemned as chimerical without a fair inquiry (applause). The lecturer then withdrew with his patients; strange to say, the lad never flinched under the blow, nor did his hand show the least mark. Mr. Hope, who was the first to contradict the existence of mesmeric influence, declined passing any opinion. It was publicly stated, on the authority of some medical men, that the students had come down purposely to create a disturbance and stop the lecture.

**THE SALE OF LIEUTENANT MUNRO'S EFFECTS.**—Contrary to very general expectation, the sale was allowed to proceed on Wednesday without interruption. The auction commenced and was carried through without Mr. Wakley's appearance. The company was not numerous. It consisted chiefly of brokers and the class of persons usually attending sales of this description. Three or four military officers and a few ladies were present. Mr. Kirke made no allusion to the former interruption on opening the sale, and the lots were successively knocked down at prices generally low, though in some instances exceeding their actual value, probably from a desire to possess some relic belonging to a gentleman who has unfortunately been brought so prominently before the public. An inspector of the metropolitan police and two constables were in the room during the sale, but as they were dressed in private clothes their presence was only observed by those who knew their persons. Several other policemen were in attendance at the Grapes Tavern in Brompton-road.

## LITERATURE.

*The Polytechnic Journal.* JANUARY, 1840. VOL. 2. No. 1.

This Magazine appears to have established itself. The undertaking was a bold one; and involved a sort of implied compliment to the patrons of the periodical press, of which the said patrons seem to have proved that they were not unworthy.

The second volume commences with a number a shade lighter and more miscellaneous than some of those which preceded it; but still retaining its peculiar and distinctive character, though somewhat softened, and, indeed, embellished. It contains fifteen or sixteen specimens of wood engravings on "extra paper." They are executed by Vizetelly; are taken from the works of various artists, and present great variety of style, and manner, and subject. The illustrations contained in the present number, it is the intention of the conductors to make the subject of especial comment in subsequent articles. The price of the Magazine considered, this sheet of illustrations is really remarkable.

The articles are as numerous as the illustrations, and as varied. One of them is devoted to the modern history of the art of Wood Engraving, and to a notice of the life and labours of Thomas Bewick, with whom the era of improvement in the art commenced; and who possessed something of the originality, and much of the perseverance and devotedness which are necessary to the character of a great artist.

There is an article on "Mesmerism," the writer of which seems to have ventured on thinking for himself in defiance of prejudice and fashion. Facts are facts, whether they come within the range of our philosophy or not; and on this subject facts have been established beyond all doubt, which demonstrate the existence of an agency, not the less real and effective because its origin and mode of action are still enveloped in mystery. The following extraordinary anecdote may be familiar to many of our readers—but we insert it for the edification of our incurious and stay-at-home friends:—

Madame Plantin during several years had been afflicted with a cancer of the right breast; the auxiliary glands of that side were also enlarged. With the hope of reducing the swelling her physician, M. Chaplain, had subjected her to the action of Mesmerism, but no good effect was produced, excepting sleep so profound as to prevent her feeling pain, and the state of somnambulism already described elsewhere. The extirpation of the tumour was proposed to the poor lady, but she could not wake up her mind to submit to an operation so painful. It was, therefore, arranged that the celebrated anatomist and surgeon, M. Cloquet, should perform the operation whilst Madame Plantin was under the influence of the Mesmeric somnambulism, her consent having been previously obtained whilst in that state. Accordingly, M. Chaplain produced the state of somnambulism, in that state obtained her consent to the operation, and on the day appointed, Madame Plantin being under the influence of the somnambulism, M. Cloquet performed this painful and hazardous operation in a little less than twelve minutes. During the whole of the operation, the particulars of which we need not here detail, Madame Plantin showed no symptom of pain or sensibility, but, as had been her habit when under the influence of Mesmerism, conversed calmly: no visible effect was produced on the respiration, voice, pulse, or any one limb or feature. After the operation was concluded, she was allowed to remain in the same state for forty-eight hours, then after the wound had been dressed she was awakened, and she appeared to have no consciousness of what had passed during the preceding two days, but asked to see her children, when informed that the operation had been performed. The sight of her family causing a good deal of emotion, she was set to sleep by Mesmerism.

The power, whatever it be, which can produce such an effect, is surely worth investigating. The investigation cannot be in better hands than those of the acute and intrepid Dr. Elliotson. It may be said of Mesmerism as of Phrenology; that it is unreasonable to deny the existence of proved facts, because the connexion between those facts, considered as effects, and their assumed causes, may not be susceptible of demonstration.



## Mesmerism at the Conservative Club.

MR. EDITOR,—I do not complain of the severity with which you have attacked the mysterious, miraculous powers of Mesmerism, to which I am most enthusiastically and extra-professionally devoted; but unfortunately you have made *The Times* rat from all its principles, and after I have been led by that Journal into a support of the sublimities of Mesmerism, it suddenly deserts both me and the science, on the grounds of your views of the subject. Permit me, Sir, to relate to you a few facts which were witnessed on Thursday last, the 12th instant, by nearly 800 of the Conservative Club, every one a Member of either the House of Lords or the House of Commons. I was summoned by the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel, as chairman and deputy-chairman of the committee of the Conservative Club in Pall Mall, in order that I might try what effects Mesmerism would have on the Tory Members of Parliament directly previous to its assembling; and I have now the honour of submitting to you a faithful report of the proceedings. Some of my experiments were eminently successful; others, I must confess, were failures, and several cases were of a doubtful nature; but through your medium I will honestly report the whole of them to you. I cannot communicate my matter to *The Times*, on account of the excessive dishonesty of that Journal, which, in one week, has taken three sides on this subject, having, I have ascertained by mesmeretic process, received on each occasion a bribe of 25 guineas for its change of opinions. Here are the cases and experiments at the Conservative Club:—

Case, No. 1.—Mr. Plumptre (M.P. for East Kent) was submitted to my manipulations. I took a remarkably greasy dish-cloth, and bound it tightly round his head. The affinities and sympathies between the grease of the cloth and that of his brain completely formed a plaster round his eyes, and in this state of utter blindness he began to read by his belly, the Prayer-book and Bible topsy-turvy, and in all perverse ways. The club declared that Mr. Plumptre always read and did every thing for his belly, and that he was accustomed to read every thing upside down, backwards or forwards, or zig-zag, according to his interests, but I count this a successful experiment.

Case 2.—Sir Robert Inglis I threw into a stupor in two minutes and thirty-five seconds, but the whole club said he was always in a stupor; but, on further mesmerization, he began to damn and swear like a trooper, and blew up the Bishop of Exeter, and all the Prelates; he damned the Church, and declared he had no religion, but he supported the Parsons because the Parsons returned him to Parliament. Sir Robert Peel begged me to desist, for the Member for Oxford became blasphemous in the extreme.

Case 3.—I mesmerized Colonel Sibthorp, and in nine operations I succeeded in giving him six grains of common sense, and the whole club declared that I had performed a miracle.

Case 4.—Mr. Goulburn wagered me that he would throw the members of the club into a profound sleep much sooner than I could. I accepted the challenge, but in fifteen minutes I was beaten; for Mr. Goulburn, by repeating one of his cleverest speeches, threw every person into a deep sleep, except two members who were as deaf as posts.

Case 5.—Lord Brougham suddenly burst into the room, but the whole club exclaimed that he was not a Conservative; but his Lordship declared that he was of all principles and of all opinions, and was ready for Conservative purposes, or any other purposes. I mesmerized him into taciturnity for ten minutes, and all present declared that his Lordship had never held his tongue for so long a period.

Case 6.—Sir Francis Burdett. In three minutes I mesmerized a huge rat's tail to the Baronet's posteriorities.

Case 7.—I threw Mr. Shaw, the Member for Dublin, into a mesmeretic fit, and he began to damn the Pope, and roared out such imprecations against O'Connell that he was given in charge of the police.

Case 8.—Mr. Serjeant Jackson and Mr. E. Tennant, in their fits, exclaimed most violently for more whiskey.

Case 9.—The Bishop of Exeter was so indecent, under mesmerism, that I cannot narrate his conduct in a newspaper. He flew at the Bishop of London like a bull dog.

Case 10.—On pressing to mesmerize Lord Stanley and Sir J. Graham, the whole club roared out "Take care of your pockets," and the members rushed, one and all, into Pall Mall, leaving me alone. I lost my gold watch on the occasion, and no one was by me except Lord Ashburton, but he was dreaming of the Corn-laws. Thus, Mr. Editor, do I prove the sublime truths of Mesmerism. Dr. ELLIOTSON, Professor of Mesmerism.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—On Thursday an exhibition of animal magnetism took place at the Hanover-square Rooms, when M. Delafontaine, failed in sending to sleep a gentleman who submitted to be mesmerised, and who laughed heartily at the attempt. A dumb child also was pulled and rubbed about until it burst into a fit of crying, and the company feeling dissatisfied, demanded tickets for another occasion, which having been granted, they departed. On Friday this humbug upon public credulity was fairly exploded. A large number of persons assembled, but M. Delafontaine did not make his appearance, and a placard informed the visitors, that as the boy who has been so repeatedly sent to sleep, and who is M. Delafontaine's servant was ill, the exhibition was postponed until Wednesday. Resolutions expressive of indignation at the conduct of M. Delafontaine were then proposed by Mr. Thomas, of Finch-lane, and carried by a considerable majority. *Dispatch Aug. 1841*

MORE MESMERISM.—The 'Milford Bard' recently mesmerised a beautiful lady and kissed her. To his great surprise and rapture, the sympathy was so strong that she kissed him back again.—"He! he!"—*The New York Sun.*

STURMER. A TALE OF MESMERISM. BY J. F. ROMER.—*Bentley, New Burlington-street.*—In justice to the writer of this work, we must confess that its title-page gave us considerable prejudice against it at the commencement of perusing it; but, as we proceeded in our task of criticism, we were struck by its spirit and talents, and we concluded with the impression of regret, that a writer of such abilities should have devoted her mind to a subject so worthless. Mrs. Romer presumes that no person can be ignorant of the principles and properties, and physical phenomena of mesmerism, whereas its professors do not pretend to explain or understand any thing of its principles. It is all a mystery, and the very word mystery always conveys to our mind indelible impressions of fraud, although many clever persons may be completely the dupes of the term, and be very far from capable of imposing upon others in using it. "The trust" (of mesmerizing) "should, therefore," (says Mrs. Romer) "never be lightly confided, and the character and habits of magnetizers should be thoroughly ascertained before they are invested with the awful responsibility which attaches to their functions, or suffered to exercise an agency, which may shed its influence either 'as airs from heaven or blasts from hell,' over the moral as well as the physical being of the persons who are for a time spell-bound under the dominion of their will; and therefore unaccountable for the actions to which that will may lead them." We differ from this ingenious, and, in our humble opinion, very mistaken lady; for if mesmerism be founded in reason, nature, and truth, its functions may be, and ought to be, intrusted to all, and we have no idea of licensing any persons in the exercise of awful responsibilities. But Mrs. Romer, although extremely clear of mind, and possessed of great natural acuteness and penetration, is thoroughly deluded when she comes upon her hobby-horse, and she most palpably contradicts herself, as in the passage we have quoted, for the mesmerized patient cannot be spell-bound under the dominion of the WILL, for not only the will, but all consciousness is supposed to be entirely annihilated under the mesmeretic influences. If she means the will of the mesmerizer, we hold it as chimerical, and to depend upon the will of the mesmerized, for the will to cheat can succeed only by the will to be cheated, and in the immense numbers of persons of every rank and station, who will, and must be cheated somehow or other by priest, parson, or other craftsman of infinite denominations, the padlock must be applied to the victimized and not to the sacrificer. The authoress says:—

When the writer of these pages was in Germany, where magnetism is now thoroughly understood, and more extensively practised than in England, many miraculous cases were related to her of cures performed by it when all the art of medicine had failed in bringing relief; and, among others, one instance which so forcibly illustrated her previous opinions of its uses and abuses, that she made notes of the occurrence at the time she heard it, and has since been prevailed upon by a dear friend, an enthusiastic disciple of mesmerism, to draw those notes from the deep recesses of her Scrap-book, and give them to light in their present form.

Upon this passage we may observe that the German quacks no more pretend to understand mesmerism than the quacks of England; for all quackery, religious or medical, depends upon a non-understanding, and immediately any understanding invades the province of quackery, delusions vanish, and the cheats fly. We are, moreover, extremely sceptical of "miraculous cases," for all miracles, when investigated, turn out to be most scandalous frauds, and otherwise most contemptible humbugs; and let us tell this clever writer that the evidence of "enthusiastic disciples" is *ex-parte*, suspicious, and almost always to be rejected, with due tenderness to the enthusiast, if the enthusiasm be real, which is not the case in one instance out of a hundred, or rather a thousand. In all the parts of this work which have no relation to mesmerism, and in which Mrs. Romer's strong natural talents and deep feelings take an unprejudiced direction, the publication is highly interesting.

MESMERISM IN CHINA!—Something of every discovery under the sun has been found in a rudimentary state among the Chinese, and here we have another miraculous example:—It would appear from a recent work that the Chinese Barbers magnetise, for the purpose of rendering the operation of shaving less disagreeable, and, perhaps in some instances, where the sensibility is required to be blunted. "I observed," says the author, "that the greater part of the patients slept while they were being shaved, and could not account for this singularity; but one morning I observed a man seat himself a little apart from the rest. I began my task of sketching, when the barber, instead of commencing his operations, placed himself before his customer, and first of all took hold of his hand, then passed his hands several times over the shoulders and before the face of the sitter, who shortly fell into a state of quiet drowsiness, if he did not actually go to sleep. He then moved his customer's head about in every direction he pleased, to facilitate the operation of shaving. When he had finished, he shook sleeper gently and awoke him. I frequently saw a thing practised afterwards."—*Lee's Animal Homœopathy.*

UNFORTUNATE APROPOS.—At the dinner given by the judges to the magistrates on the first day of the late assizes, after the cloth had been removed, the health of the judges was drunk. Lord Denman was returning thanks, and saying, how happy he and his brother Patteson were, to come into the county of Kent, when, unfortunately, the worthy chairman of the Quarter Sessions and another worthy magistrate had, at the moment, brought an animated discussion on Mesmerism to a climax, and the former, striking the table, vehemently exclaimed, "They are the biggest humbugs on earth!" The room was convulsed with laughter, and none enjoyed the joke more than the distinguished judges.

We were present on Monday last at an exhibition of Mesmerism, given at the Hanover-square Rooms, by Mons. La Fontaine, and we are bound in justice to the public, and in our duties towards the cause of truth and science to avow, that a more flimsy, palpable imposition we never witnessed. "The Wizard of the North" surprises us by his dexterity, at what he confesses to be tricks, not meant to deceive, but only to astonish and amusingly perplex spectators, but in Mesmerism the trickery is of a very different character. The company, on Monday, consisted of about forty ladies, gentlemen and children—the ladies comprising many fashionable amateur Mesmerites, and among the gentlemen were, Dr. Elliotson, and several professional men, who, by writings, or otherwise, have acquired a very unenviable reputation on the subject. It is asserted that if Mesmerism cannot be of benefit to medicine, or to physiology, it can, at the worst, do no harm—a doctrine which we utterly deny. Persons of weak intellect, of nervous temperaments and delicate health, are extremely prone to delusions, which are, in themselves, painful, which increase disorders, and always make them the dupes of quacks, Cantwells, Mawworms and impostors of every description. When once this evil commences, it is impossible to prescribe it within limits, and one delusion introduces or facilitates another, until the whole mind is diseased, and becomes a prey to fallacies of every description. Hudibras says—

"For charlatans can do no good,  
Until they're mounted in a crowd."

We can only add, that they do a vast deal of evil in private, and a patient of a quack doctor soon becomes the prey of a quack parson. But a pursuit of these quackeries and delusions is disgraceful to a professional man. It disqualifies him for his professional practice, as it vitiates the mind, embues it with false modes of reasoning and totally incapacitates it for pursuing scientific researches and experiments and philosophical inquiries, with the strictness of ratiocination which is indispensable. A proneness to credulity, and an inclination to the marvellous or mysterious is a bad passport to medical science or to science of any sort, and a still worse passport to moral confidence, and on the same grounds that Dr. Elliotson was so very properly dismissed from the London University Hospital, that gossiping, garrulous old womanly-semi-quack of yore, Abernethy, ought to have been dismissed St. Bartholomew's for the electro-fluid vitality or soulism, and other delusions with which he polluted, or attempted to inoculate, science. With respect to the exhibition of Monday last, we blushed for the ignorance and credulity of the fashionable company that could be so deceived. A set of "the lower orders," of "the working classes," or "the unwashed," would have had by far more vigorous minds, or at least "more common sense." Mons. La Fontaine, imprimis, entirely conceals or buries the whole of the lower part of his face in a profusion of whiskers, moustaches, and beard, and thus appears *en Sidrophèle*. His Ralpho, or patient, is an interesting French lad, of about seventeen, with an amiable but weak countenance; but, to do him justice, he plays his part, and obeys his instructions very ably. Neither master nor man can speak a word of English—a fact of importance, for it excludes scrutiny from those who can't speak French, or who speak it badly. The boy is set in a large arm-chair. The Mesmeriter simply presses three fingers on his thumb, and keeps staring him in the face, until the charm is produced, and the boy is conjured into a sort of Nourjabad or Rip Van-Winkle sleep, out of which even the three knocks of Don Giovanni's ghost could not rouse him.

"None sleep so fast as those that won't awake,  
Those blindest are that will not vision take."

The "cock's shrill clarion nor the echoing horn," no, not the last trump itself, could awaken such a somnolent. "Mandagora and the drowsy syrups of the cast" could not have such a composing effect. Well, now commences the extreme tomfoolery of waving the hands all about the face, head, body, and limbs, without their ever approaching nearer than six or twelve inches, and though the boy is supposed to be so deprived of sensation or vitality that he can bear any pain, this baboon sort of trickery produces the miraculous effect of tetanus, and all the limbs become dead and rigid, the legs being extended parallel with the floor. A pistol is several times fired close to his ear, and he is asked whether he heard it. An Irish patient might answer "honey, by the powers I didn't hear it," making an Irish miracle of hearing the soft inquiry of the master though he could not hear the pistol. The boy answered faintly in the affirmative. Pins are then pricked into his head, thighs, and hands—an exhibition unpleasant and nonsensical, for if they are pricked stronger than many persons of callous skins and lethargic systems can bear, it is cruel; and if the puncture be slighter, it is useless. Ammonia is applied to the nose, and a lighted match is held under it, though not so close as to blister or corrugate the skin of the cartilages. After this the boy receives voltaic shocks and electric shocks without sensation, at least until the shocks became severe. Some of the company tried these shocks, ignorant that this was no test, as they might be given to them with greater strength than to the lad. The Sidrophel was asked to try the experiment of what weight the rigid legs would bear, but he very sensibly would not comply. A most ridiculous part was that when made to stand, his whole frame being as stiff as iron, he brought his left leg to the ground only on the heel, and in order to bring the stone-like foot completely to the ground, the hands were merely waved in the former baboon or Jacko style, at about a foot distance round the shin and ankle, and thus the miraculous electro-chemico, or mysterious fluid, penetrated both boot and trousers, and down came the foot as flat and as firm as a soldier's in line at the word "attention." Silks and cloths are more or less non-conductors of the galvanic or electric fluids, so this mesmeric fluid must be a mystery as great and as incomprehensible as the renowned mysteries of Johanna Southcote, Irvine, Mad Tom of Canterbury, Swedenborg, or any other Saltinbanchos, quacksalvers or cushion thumpers. Without depreciating the French boy's performance, we have no hesitation in saying that in one week we would produce two hundred men, women, boys, or girls from Astley's, the Surrey, Sadler's Wells, and from strolling booth-players that would go through the part equally well. Delusions in medicine are akin to delusions in fanaticism, and "then partitions do their bounds divide," and our countrymen and women are so proverbially prone to credulity, to miracles, mysterious, and super-natural agencies, that we expect the speedy revival of blackcatism and broomstickism, and will have a repeal of the act of Geo. IV., that prevented (in Ireland) any woman's being indicted for bewitching cattle or persons with black cats, or for flying through the air in a sieve or on a broomstick. Dr. Elliotson is very little to be envied in the reputation he has acquired on the subject. He has either been deceived (*simpliciter*) or has deceived others in a manner less honourable. The higher branches of the profession often have a nice tact in simultaneously and delicately touching the extremes of incipient quackery, and the termini of regular practice, and a somewhat eccentric doctor, if he manages well, is sure "to make a fortune." We will always zealously administer to "minds diseased," and do our utmost to cure the national distemper of credulity, let the symptoms exhibit themselves in Church or State, law or physic.

"Ten thousand times the pleasure's greater,  
To be the cheated than the cheater."



# ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

(Continued from the Iris of Jan. 25.) 42

## TO THE EDITORS OF THE SHEFFIELD IRIS.

SIRS,—The proceedings and experiments at the third and fourth of M. Lafontaine's *conversazioni* were so similar to those of the first and second described in my letter a fortnight ago, that it is unnecessary to recapitulate at any length the various features which they presented. An essay, by M. Lafontaine, was interpreted by M. Vully, in which the claims of animal magnetism on the attention of the scientific world were put forward, and the various phenomena which it is said to be capable of producing were pointed out. These essays were extremely unsatisfactory to my mind, because they referred principally to effects which M. Lafontaine did not attempt to exhibit—effects so extraordinary that I do not think myself guilty of over scepticism, if I refuse to believe them until I have an ocular demonstration of their possibility. I think the majority of M. Lafontaine's audience would have been better satisfied had he confined his essays to those experiments which he brought under their immediate notice, and offered something like an explanation of the cause of the phenomena he induced in the cases on which he operated. I am aware that the latter is a difficult matter, but after seven years' practice in animal magnetism, he ought to be prepared with some theory not inconsistent with our present established knowledge of physiology, or if so, one that would bear minute analysis and investigation. But I am losing sight of the object of this part of my letter, which is to detail facts and not to quarrel with opinions. M. Lafontaine succeeded in inducing somnolency in the young woman who accompanied him in a few seconds, and the various experiments of pricking with pins in various parts of the body, the application of ammonia, and Lucifer matches in a state of ignition to the nostrils, firing percussion caps close to the ear, and a moderate current of electro-magnetism failed to produce the slightest evidence of sensibility. A powerful charge caused a deep groan, and I was not surprised that such was the case, for it was quite evident that the state of rigidity and insensibility was not so great as on the first night, nor the other proofs of the magnetic influence so decided. I endeavoured to obtain an explanation of the cause of this failure from M. Lafontaine, but could not elicit from him any satisfactory solution of the apparent anomaly. The power possessed by the operator over the person being operated upon was shown in M. Lafontaine's demagnetising the upper part of the head and jaws, so that the young woman could sing and converse with those about her, which was instantly stopped by M. Lafontaine directing his fingers to the back part of the head on a signal given by one of the audience, in such a way as could not possibly be perceived by the patient. This experiment was repeated so frequently, and so much precaution taken to detect any collusion, that I should disbelieve the evidence of my own senses, if I doubted its honesty, or hesitated to record my perfect satisfaction with its success. I know that many persons possess so delicate an organisation of skin, that they are sensible of the presence of others, although they cannot see them; but I have never known or heard of an instance in which insensibility was produced by such an unseen presence as was the case in this experiment. At the termination of these experiments, several individuals offered themselves to M. Lafontaine, but he declined attempting with all but two, a young woman and a young man, with both of whom he was unsuccessful in producing any effect.

On Monday evening, the interest of the audience was excited by a report of the success of some experiments made by Dr. Holland on the previous Saturday, before several gentlemen who had narrowly watched the whole of M. Lafontaine's proceedings, and the presence of three young women connected with Sheffield, whom M. Lafontaine had mesmerised in the course of the forenoon. Dr. Bartolomé acted as interpreter, instead of M. Vully, who was prevented by some reason of a private nature, and read the usual essay. The experiments with the young woman accompanying M. Lafontaine were then proceeded with, and were more successful than on any previous occasion, the state of rigidity and insensibility being more distinct. During the process of demesmerising, a bandage was placed over the patient's eyes, and Mr. Palfreyman communicated in a whisper to M. Lafontaine what leg he wished him to demesmerise first, in order to prove that no collusion existed. He selected the right, and after a few passes the leg began to drop, leaving the other in the same rigid condition as before, which was continued for at least half an hour longer while the other experiments were going on. She bore the galvanic test better than at any previous trial, although when the full power was applied she gave a slight indication of sensibility. The intensity of the battery was tried by Dr. Harwood; but he cried "hold, enough," before it was so powerful as the patient had borne without any indication of suffering. The three young women already referred to were then brought on the platform and seated in a row, holding each other's hands, with M. Lafontaine seated in front of them, holding the right hand of the one and the left of the other. In three or four minutes somnolency was induced in all three, and their limbs placed in a rigid position. Various tests were used, such as pricking the hands and face with pins, but they evinced no feeling of

pain, although they were able to answer questions proposed to them in that languid manner which people do when awoke suddenly from a sound sleep, or immediately preceding their going to sleep. They awoke at the end of about twenty minutes, but had not the power of altering the position of their limbs, or of feeling the pricking of pins about the hands and feet, which they saw inserted. These parts were demesmerised in succession by sudden passes of the hand, and they left the platform without complaining of the slightest uneasiness or fatigue. Mr. Palfreyman then submitted himself, having evidently made up his mind to be Mesmerism-proof, but after he had been under the operation about five minutes his eyelids began to drop, and other symptoms of its influence were manifested, when some noise in the room attracted his attention, and he continued proof against it during the continuance of the experiment, perhaps ten minutes more. He stated his conviction that if he had not been roused by the noise, the experiment would have been successful. This was decidedly the most interesting of the *conversazioni*, and not a few who had previously been sceptics went away under the impression that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

The concluding meeting took place on Tuesday evening, when nearly the same experiments were made, and with results similar to those of Monday. Somnolence, insensibility, and rigidity were induced in all who were tried, among others, Mr. Palfreyman, who had been operated upon successfully by M. Lafontaine at the Tontine in the afternoon. The state of somnolence did not last so long with him as in the other cases, but the limbs continued to retain the position in which they had been placed by the operator, for some time after he was restored to consciousness, in fact until M. Lafontaine had made the demesmerising passes. These were the principal of the public experiments, and those which M. Lafontaine made in private were nearly similar in their results. He has not been able to show what are claimed as the higher and more wonderful phenomena of animal magnetism, such as clairvoyance, precision, &c.; but I understand he states that these can only be attained after an individual has been frequently operated upon by the same person. After what I have witnessed, I should be very guarded in denouncing these claims as imposition or humbug, at the same time I must say that they are so contrary to all my preconceived opinions and experience, that I cannot pronounce them practicable unless I have more direct evidence to judge from than the assertion of a mesmerist, or even the record of a public print.

As in other places, the experiments of M. Lafontaine have excited great interest in Sheffield, and I know several instances in which medical men and others have operated both on females and young men, and with similar success to M. Lafontaine. In fairness to that gentleman, I ought to state that he does not profess to have a monopoly of the magnetic influence, but that he considers every person to possess a certain share of it, which becomes more fully developed after being excited by operating upon others. How far this may be true, or in what this influence consists, I cannot decide, but having seen gentlemen who, till within the last ten days, were thorough sceptics in every thing relating to animal magnetism, operate upon others and produce somnolence, total and partial insensibility, and other physical effects, which they had previously deemed impossible, I cannot deny his position as to the effect, however unsatisfactory and unexplained his assumed cause may be. If his *modus operandi*, of looking steadily into the eyes of his patient, is taken into consideration, the first effect produced, that of somnolency may be readily anticipated, as the experience of most people will at once suggest instances in which a fixed stare has produced extraordinary results on insane persons, and even the more savage of the lower animals. In the famous indictment of Rousseau against his quondam friend David Hume, the historian, the following singular instance of the effect of this stare is given as one of the counts:—"That, at another time, as the said David Hume, and the said J. J. Rousseau, were sitting opposite each other by the fireside in London, he the said David Hume did look at him, the said J. J. Rousseau, in a manner of which it is difficult to give any idea; that he, the said J. J. Rousseau, to get rid of the embarrassment he was under, endeavoured to look full at him, the said David Hume, in return, to try if he could not stare him out of countenance; but in fixing his eyes against his, the said David Hume's, he felt the most inexpressible terror, and was obliged to turn them away, inasmuch that the said J. J. Rousseau doth in his heart think and believe, as much as he believes any thing, that the said David Hume is a composition of a white witch and a rattle snake." "Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," can frequently be induced to visit a wakeful pillow by a monotonous noise, or by fixing the mind on one subject not sufficiently exciting to give rise to a new train of ideas, but this condition of sleep is not accompanied with muscular rigidity or insensibility in the organs of hearing, smelling, or feeling, which is the case with magnetic sleep, or the state of somnolence induced by the influence of one person over another and illustrated by the experiments I have endeavoured to detail.—As this communication has already extended to a great length, I must defer my general remarks on the subject of Mesmerism till next week.

Yours, &c.

THOMAS CARSTAIRS.  
Devonshire-street, Feb. 7th, 1842.

THE MESMERIC INFLUENCE.—The wonders of Mesmerism are not altogether unknown to the people of Leicester, but a case has occurred this week which has eclipsed all previous facts, either here or at a distance. We allude to that of the amputation of a limb on Thursday last. The patient is a young woman of the name of Mary Ann Lakin, 16 Fleet street, in this town, who had been afflicted with a disease of the knee-joint for four years. The precise nature of the disease we do not know, but it was attended with enormous swelling of the limb, and with such excruciating pain as to prevent anything like consecutive rest for a long period. By these pains and want of sleep she had become reduced to a mere skeleton, and there was every probability that her life must be sacrificed or the limb amputated. In this critical state of the case, about a month ago, it was suggested that Mesmerism should be tried on the patient, and it was found that its influence was of the most beneficial and soothing nature. Under its influence pain would cease, and the patient would sink into perfect and refreshing repose. As amputation of the diseased joint was deemed essential by her medical attendant, it was decided that the operation should be performed while in the mesmeric state. Accordingly, 12 o'clock on Thursday morning was fixed upon for the operation to take place. Mr. Hollings was the Mesmeriser, and Mr. Tosswill the operator, besides whom there were present Dr. Shaw, and Messrs. Paget, Seddon, jun., Downing, &c. Mr. Hollings having mesmerised the patient, which was accomplished in about nine minutes, Mr. Tosswill proceeded to perform the operation. The limb was taken off within about five inches of the hip joint, the spot measuring 33 inches in circumference where the amputation took place, and which was effected in two minutes and a half. During the operation an all but inaudible moaning was heard, and a slight movement of the body was perceptible: but as far as could be judged there was an entire absence of pain. This was evinced by the countenance preserving throughout the greatest placidity, not a single motion of a muscle indicating such sensation. On being demesmerised the patient was not aware of what had taken place till informed by those in attendance. In the afternoon, great pains were felt in the loins, attended with considerable writhing of the body from the contraction of the muscles, but on resorting to the mesmeric influence these gradually ceased, the patient falling into a calm sleep, which lasted an hour and 40 minutes, and when aroused all pain had entirely left her, and has not been felt since. In this case, we do not pretend to decide anything about the nature of mesmerism, but the proceedings are altogether so astonishing, and at the same time so well attested, by the presence of several distinguished members of the medical profession, that no reasonable mind can reject them.—*Leicester Mercury.* Feb 11/42.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—Monsieur Bodin communicated a singular anecdote relating himself, the truth of which his unquestionable veracity places beyond suspicion. Having been attacked by brain fever, he lay almost at the point of death. Still he had occasionally lucid intervals. In one of these, perceiving his own danger, he insisted on being mesmerised. A practitioner was called in by his medical attendants; but before he arrived, my lamented friend was again in a paroxysm of his frightful malady. This was almost instantly calmed by the passes of animal magnetism, and he soon fell into the mesmeric sleep. While under its influence, he suddenly started upright on his couch of suffering, and imperatively called for pen, ink, and paper, which were immediately procured. To the astonishment of all present, he then, as if under the power of inspiration, rapidly composed and wrote down, though his eyes were sealed in deepest sleep, the exquisite stanzas and music, which, unaltered, he afterwards published under the title of "*La Langueur*." Monsieur Bodin has often described to me the emotions of profound astonishment with which, on being demesmerised, he contemplated this touching effusion of his genius; for being perfectly unconscious of all that had passed during his mesmeric trance, the friends who had witnessed his composition could scarcely persuade him to believe it his own, until an examination of his peculiar handwriting confirmed the fact.—*Polytechnic Mag.* for Feb. Feb 1/42

## LA FONTAINE'S, THE MESMERIZER'S, INVITATION TO JOHN BULL.

Come, Monsieur Bull, I'll magnetize—  
You're blind, I'll give you back your eyes.  
Goot Monsieur Bull, why you no come,  
I'll make you speak, although your dumb.  
Ah equin, Bull, one English brute,  
If you can speak, I make you mute;  
And if your deaf, as Old King Priam,  
I'll make you hear, for know that I am  
One conjuror—can raise the dead,  
And take the senses out your head—  
Pull noses, or take eyes from sockets;  
And quickly empty all your pockets;  
Do ten times more, as sure as gun,  
Or English Doctor Elliotson.  
Ah, fool, Jean Bull, got d—n your eyes!  
Why you no come for magnetize?  
Your cash I'll take, but not for gain,  
Your humble servant,  
LA FONTAINE.

ans 2/1841



# MESMERISM and PHRENO-MAGNETISM in WHITTLESEA.

To the EDITOR of the MERCURY.

Sir,—Having repeatedly read articles in your paper for and against Mesmerism, I resolved, if the opportunity occurred in Whittlesea, to see and judge for myself. Accordingly on Wednesday evening the 6th inst., when the Crier announced a lecture on Mesmerism at the Falcon inn by Mr. J. S. Fields, I at the appointed time attended. Thinking that a plain statement of what actually occurred would be amusing to your readers, and enable those who have seen nothing of the kind to form a correct judgment, I have sent the result to you, hoping you will publish it in your next *Mercury*.—On entering the lecture-room, I found Mr. Fields in conversation with three ladies: he is rather a small, spare man, and not a man of many words. In a chair by himself sat the subject to be operated upon—a young man, apparently half asleep, and of an idiotic appearance. Mr. Fields commenced his lecture with an exceedingly brief account of the rise and progress of Mesmerism. He then told us what Mesmerism meant. He said every individual is surrounded by an imperceptible fluid; that by means of this fluid, when acted on by a person of more powerful temperament, all the phenomena of Mesmerism and Phreno-magnetism are produced. He now commenced his operations, by putting his hands and feet to those of his subject, and each staring the other full in the eyes. I placed my chair so as to see every move, when Mr. Fields rather abruptly turned himself and his subject in another direction, excusing himself by saying that he wished the company to have a full view. Presently he placed his extended fingers of one hand close before the eyes, and with the other made passes (that is, moved his open hand about) in various directions near the face and head. In a short time the head of the youth operated upon fell back, as if convulsed. This convulsive movement is a sure sign the Mesmeric sleep is produced. Well, now then, to convince us that no imposition was practised, the following expedients were resorted to. The right arm was first extended, and by means of a few passes made from the shoulder to the hand, stiffened so as to be able to sustain itself. Mr. Fields said this arm might be kept extended for many hours by merely making passes over it. He asked us to examine the arm and observe that the muscles were lax, proving the arm was not sustained by muscular power. I examined the arm, but really could tell no difference between it and any other arm held in the same position. Observing that, in making the passes from the shoulder to the hand, the lecturer often put his fingers under the hand, as if to rest the arm, I requested him to make the passes without touching the hand or arm in any way, and to keep it for a few minutes longer extended. Whereupon he said he would extend and stiffen the other arm, as the young man had hurt that shoulder two days ago; forgetting, or rather not wishing to remember, that a few minutes before he had said the arm was supported by mesmeric influence, and consequently it could not matter whether the shoulder had been hurt or not. He next extended and stiffened the legs, and then showed us how he could extend any limb we might choose to write upon a slip of paper, standing at a great distance. Indeed, he said, the distance was almost unlimited. The young man was blindfolded. I gave the lecturer a slip of paper with "right leg" written on it. This he showed round to the company, and then making a few passes over the limb and the head, he withdrew to a distance, and by waving his hand towards it gradually raised it to an extended position. Observe, said he, on making the passes before moving to a distance, I do not touch him. He accounted for the effect by saying it was the mesmeric fluid he extended, and which might be extended to a great distance with the same results. Having now invited us to examine the rigidity of the leg, he began to operate on the cerebral organs; but, previously to doing so, he said it was necessary to convince us of the truth of Mesmerism, or we might think this part of the proceedings mere nonsense. He touched various organs, and some astounding phenomena were produced. On touching destructiveness, the mesmerised lifted his chair and smashed it down with fearful violence. Touching benevolence, he offered the operator a penny. Touching acquisitiveness, he tried to pick his pocket. Touching tune and language, he sang a jovial song. Touching tune, language, and veneration, he sang a hymn. But the most amusing organ was imitation: he laughed when we laughed, spoke what we spoke, stamped when we stamped, sang what we sang, clapped his hands when we did so, and, in short, did everything we did when any noise was made. Several other organs were excited.

This done, several of us submitted to a phrenological examination; and I almost blush to record it,—but I feel it necessary to do so, that Mr. Fields may not think me too hard upon him, when I condemn, which I certainly must, the whole proceeding as one of the greatest humbugs ever practised on the credulity of John Bull.—he found my most prominent organ to be benevolence. He dwelt so much on this organ, that I believe if the scale admitted he would have made it very, very, very large. During the evening, he told us of wonderful cures performed by Mesmerism—the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak—and related a most wonderful cure of king's evil after the doctors had all failed. His method of curing a disease is this: suppose the thigh diseased, he makes passes from the seat of the disease down the leg, thence to his toe ends, where it leaves the patient and comes into his fingers, which being shaken scatter the disease in the air.

The above is the substance of the first evening's lecture. Every thing stated is true, and can be attested by a crowd of witnesses. Thursday evening's lecture was attended more numerous, but did not prove any better than the first. Mr. Fields commenced by observing that, as he saw many who were present on the previous evening, he should be very brief in his introductory remarks. Accordingly he began mesmerising directly, with this difference—he sent his patient to sleep by making a few passes about the face with his hands. Mr. Fields had told us on the previous evening that by repeatedly mesmerising one subject, the person became so susceptible of the influence as to fall asleep by his merely going near him. On this evening we had a proof of this assertion, for the young man fell asleep almost immediately. We had a fine display of the cerebral organs. After which, I observed to Mr. Fields that he had said the limbs could be extended and sustained by mesmeric influence for any length of time; and therefore, if he would extend and sustain the young man's leg in a horizontal position, sitting on the chair as he then sat, I would become a convert to mesmerism. He said he would try. He raised the leg, but not to an horizontal position. This experiment proved to my satisfaction that Mesmerism will support the limbs as far as they are supported by muscular power, and no farther.—The company was now on the

stir, several wishing to be mesmerised. Mr. Pridmore, ironmonger, sat first, though the lecturer thought he could not mesmerise him; he would, however, try. After having passes down the back for half an hour, he thought he felt his coat drawn through the chair back. Another thought his nose-end as big as a bushel; but none fell asleep. It is due to Mr. Fields to say that he held out no hopes of mesmerising any one, the following conditions being necessary to success, viz., privacy, stillness, right temperament, and (most of all) faith. Now followed a scene which baffles all description: a dozen mesmerisers sprang up at once; arms were extended in all directions in order to be stiffened. but I believe only one instance succeeded. A lady from London who had taken great interest in the proceedings, and appeared to have great faith, had her arm stiffened by Mr. Fields' making passes over it. She said she could not put it down: on which, Mr. Fields made two or three motions under the small, and liberated it immediately.—It seems, from what transpired this evening, not to be necessary to go to sleep in order to have the limbs stiffened. Indeed, Mr. Fields said he cured diseases by making passes without inducing sleep; though sometimes it happened the patient fell asleep during the operations. Such was the evening's amusement. There was another lecture on Friday evening, which I did not attend. I am informed he succeeded in putting two to sleep, viz., a little girl at the Falcon, and Mr. Croft, printer. My informant examined Mr. Croft's eyes: when sleep is induced in a natural way, the pupil ought to be fixed; but in this case, his eye rolled about most unaccountably, until the pupil got in the corner nearest the nose, when it remained fixed. I have not heard that the cerebral organs were excited.

I cannot conclude this letter without observing that Mr. Fields seems from his manners to be a mild, condescending, and sincere man. He appears to me to have adopted this mode of gaining a livelihood, not from choice, but from the mother of inventions. Such is Mesmerism; and such what meets with proselytes in this enlightened century!

Your's,  
THOS. NORRIS, Watch-maker.

## MESMERISM.

TUNE,—“Tom Thumb.”

(From the Scotsman of Wednesday.)

O! what an art, what a wonderful discovery,  
Folks have got to set their noddles all a-jee;  
Search o'er the land from John O'Groat's to Dover, ye  
Deuce the thing but Mesmerism now will see.  
Not a mortal could get up a party of an evening,  
If of this new science he should tip them not a leavening;  
When beside this fund of rare, and comical, and jolly jests,  
Dished are all the other arts of alogists and ologists.

O! what an art, &c.

Ruinous the time has grown for fashionable novelists,  
Dramas and dramaticals have sunk below par;  
Commonly to foreign pipes each connoisseur's covey lists—  
Now they won't give these a mite to carry on the war.  
Peers, so proud about their sires that each one calls the  
Norman his,  
Condescend to gaze for hours on these most rare perform-  
ances;  
Commoners who trust in Pitt, or, as it may be, more in Fox,  
Shy their duties night by night to sit and watch the snoring  
folks.

O! what an art, &c.

Once, to close their hearers' eyes contented all our holy ones,  
Now, they sleep, or set asleep, from morn till night;  
Not on the Bench alone does slumber seize our Solomons—  
Lawyers try on more than courts their soporific might;  
Doctors high in fashion used to choke the sick with medicines,  
Now a novel *dose* expels the ills of lords and ladies hence;  
Surgeons, who in pulling teeth would torture you most  
frightfully,  
Whip an arm or leg away, the while you snooze, delightfully.

O! what an art, &c.

Every trade and every age is bent on mesmerising you,  
Go wherever you may choose you'll find it so;  
Little boys with sounding words will quickly be surprising  
you,  
And ladies, bless their pretty souls! the whole trick know.  
Fingers poked in people's eyes do wonders that astonish one;  
Snoring folks of all the ills one suffers will admonish one;  
Others all their neighbour's thoughts are skilful in unravelling,  
While some go fifty miles a second—mighty pretty travelling.

O! what an art, &c.

O! what an art, what a wonderful discovery,  
Never such a miracle did mortals see!  
Let but the paws of the Mesmerist come over ye,  
Ere you say “Jack Robinson!” asleep you'll be:  
All the wonders you will see exceed by far my numbering,  
Wide awake you grow, they say, to everything when slum-  
bering;  
And your mind is never more for talking and exploring fit  
Than between the intervals of some mesmeric snoring fit.

Oh! what an art, what a wonderful discovery,  
Folks have got to set their noddles all a-jee;  
Search o'er the land from John O'Groat's to Dover, ye  
Deuce the thing but mesmerism now will see.

**DANGEROUS USE OF MESMERISM.**—A young lad, a baker, in High-street, Glasgow, who had for some time past allowed himself to be mesmerized by all and sundry of his companions who desired it for their amusement, was for two days past put so completely in the magnetic sleep that it was found impossible to get him out of it. During this time his eyes were shut, his jaws firmly fixed, and neither food nor drink could be administered to him. It was feared that the unfortunate youth had forfeited his life to his folly. We are glad to be informed, however, that he was taken out of this unnatural sleep on Monday afternoon by a lecturer on Mesmerism, after two hours' work. This ought to act as a caution to inexperienced operators.—*Glasgow Chronicle*, Aug 16/43—

## ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

MR. EDITOR,—In your real or pretended fervour against impositions, delusions, and superstition, you have very roughly handled me, a clergyman of the Church of England, merely because, in my celebrated work, I stated the positive fact, of Mesmerism having produced perfect hearing in persons born deaf, or who had otherwise become as deaf as posts, and that it had produced perfect vision in the stomach, forehead, and other parts of the body of persons who had been born blind, or who had lost not only their sight but actually their eyes, the sockets being entirely empty. These are irrefutable truths, and I beg to inform you, that on Monday next, the 9th inst., myself, Dr. Elliotson, and M. Lafontaine, at twelve o'clock precisely, at the Hanover Square Rooms, the doors of which will be open gratis to the public, intend to restore ten blind children to sight, and ten deaf patients to perfect hearing, and ten thoroughly dumb persons to the free use of the English, Irish, Scotch, or Welsh languages, according to the country in which each may have been born. The patients are to be supplied from the deaf and dumb and blind asylums, the governors, matrons, and head physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries of which are to attend, and witness the cures. Mr. Liston, who has acquired such a fame by operations which restore noses, will be present; we having procured six patients, male, female, young and old, from the Lock Hospital, the medical officers of which will attend, and pledged ourselves by Mesmerism, to restore to each his or her nose in a perfect state of health, and olfactory nervism. As you have doubted the truth of Dr. Elliotson's having mesmerised persons lame or asleep into powers of active walking, we have procured two persons, one of whom lost both his legs at the battle of Navarino, and the other at the recent battle of St. Jean D'Acre, the one being seventy-five and the other thirty-five years of age, and we pledge ourselves, by the mysterious powers of Mesmerism, to enable these men to walk, run, leap, or hop with the activity of any harlequin or clown you may produce. The heroes of Navarino and Acre will attend. The chief medical officers and nurses of the Lock Hospital will be present, and the head Surgeon and Physician of Bedlam will produce, for our experiments, twelve males and females in the worst state of madness, to be mysteriously cured. I have, by mesmerism, discovered the male and female parents of ninety-nine children in the Foundling Hospital, and intend to repeat the experiments by which mesmerism has restored the worst of criminals to a perfect state of morality, and all the sensibilities of honour; and I have written to the Lord Mayor, who will be present, to beg him to order the Governor of Newgate to produce, at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday, at twelve o'clock, thirty-six of his worst criminals, and his Lordship has kindly consented to my request. I expect the great room to be crowded by ladies of rank and fashion, the gallery being reserved for the female nobility, and a large body of police will prevent disorder, and hinder the thirty-six culprits from picking pockets, should the mysteries of mesmerism have only an eventual and not an immediate effect. Myself, Dr. Elliotson, and M. Lafontaine, invite or challenge your severest scrutiny.

C. TOWNSHEND.

Aug. 8 1843







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Now, they sleep, or set asleep, from morn till night;  
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Doctors high in fashion used to choke the sick with medicines,  
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*Glasgow Chronicle, Aug 16/43*

“The same is true in relation to electricity, a substance more rarified and light than air. If two clouds are equally charged with this subtil fluid, they may pass and re-pass each other, or mingle into one, yet not a flash of lightning will be seen. But if they are unequally charged, or what is called in electrical science, ‘positively and negatively charged,’ then the Heavens will stream with forked lightning till both clouds are equally charged. By long drought and heat, electricity becomes very unequally diffused throughout the atmosphere. One portion of air contains a much greater quantity than another, and when thus thrown out of balance to a certain extreme, nature can hold out no longer. A reaction must take place. Convulsing clouds roll the Heavens in darkness—the lightning flashes, the thunders roll, and the war of elements continues until the electric fluid is equally diffused throughout the atmosphere, and also equalized with the earth. Nature, having thus gaued her end in the equilibrium produced, is at rest—all is calm. If we pass on from inert matter to animated nature, we shall find that the same law there also holds its empire. If, for instance, a healthy child, three or four years of age, be permitted to sleep every night for a year or two between two very old, decrepid grandparents, it will pine away, and if not removed, perchance it may die. There is, perhaps, not one under the sound of my voice, but what has heard the remark, that ‘it is very unhealthy for young children to sleep with very old, infirm people.’ It is even so, and parents should beware. This child is full of animal life, and its nervous system is charged with the vital fluid, secreted by the brain. This gives that suppleness to the limbs, and that buoyancy to the heart which we witness in the young. The grandparents lack the proper quantity of this nervo-vital fluid, which occasions that rigidity of the limbs we witness in the aged. The same common law of equilibrium that pervades the universe, is here also in operation. The nervo-vital fluid passes from this child to the two aged persons in conjunction. The child loses, and they continue to revive, and as this life is one can never bring those infirm persons up to an equilibrium with itself, so it must go down to them. Nature will have her equilibrium, if she has it in death. Once more: there is in the nervous system no blood. By the *nervous system*, I mean the brain and all its ramifications. The blood belongs exclusively to the circulating system, which embraces the veins and arteries. I grant that the blood vessels pass round among the convolutions of the brain; but in the nerve itself there is no blood, and the whole mass of brain is but a congeries of nerves. These are charged with a nervo-vital fluid, which is manufactured from electricity. Hence, the circulating system containing the blood, and the nervous system containing the magnetic fluid, are not to be blended, but distinctly considered. Now, as a human being may lack the proper quantity of blood in his circulating system, so he may lack the proper quantum of the nervo-vital fluid in his nervous system.”

Again, he says,—

“It is admitted, that the air we breathe is composed of two substances, namely, *oxygen* and *nitrogen*. Their relative quantities are about one-fifth oxygen and four-fifths nitrogen. But these are not all. It is evident, that hydrogen and electricity are also component parts of air. Oxygen and electricity are the principles of flame and of animal life, while nitrogen extinguishes both. There is not a single square inch of air but what contains more or less electricity. The air in its compound state is drawn into the lungs. The oxygen and electricity are communicated to the blood which is charged with iron, while the nitrogen is disengaged and exhaled. This iron, which gives colour to the blood, is instantly rendered magnetic under the influence of electricity, analogous to the needles in the galvanic battery, which becomes magnets merely by induction. The blood itself is, at the same time, oxydized by the oxygen of the air, and instantly becomes cherry red. This oxygen generates an acidity in the blood in some degree answering to the solution of the sulphate of copper in the galvanic battery.”

“The nervo-vital fluid is manufactured out of electricity, taken into the lungs at every inspiration. It completely charges the whole brain, when that organ is in a healthy state.

“There is no direct contact between mind and gross matter. There is no direct contact between the length of a thought and the breadth of that door. Nor is there any *in-re direct* contact between my mind and hand, than there is between my mind and the stage upon which I stand. Thought cannot touch my hand; yet it must be true that mind may come in contact with matter, otherwise I could not raise my hand at all by the energies of my will. Hence, it must be true, that the highest and most subtil of inert matter in the universe, being the next step to spirit, can come in contact with mind. And electricity, charged with nervo-vital fluid, (which is living galvanism) is certainly the highest and most ethereal inert substance of which we can form any conception. Hence, as before remarked, it must be true, that we put forth a will—by the energies of that will this galvanic substance or nervous fluid is prodigally stirred—that stirring vibrates the nerves—this vibration contracts the muscles—the muscles raise the arm, and that arm moves dead matter.”

“But it may be said that *mind* is *thought, reason and understanding*, and then be asked, whether *thought, reason, understanding, &c.* occupy any space? But I deny that these are *mind*. *Thought, reason and understanding* are not *mind*, but the *effects* of mind. Mind is something supremely higher than all these. I yet ask what is that which thinks, reasons, and understands? It is the mind. Then mind is something distinct from those effects by which it is manifested. What, then, it may be asked, is mind? I answer, it is that substance which has innate or living motion; and the result of that motion is thought, reason, understanding, and, therefore, power. As electricity is the highest and most subtil of *inert* substances, as it fastens on mind, and is, therefore, more easily moved than any other inert substance in being, so mind is the next step above electricity, is the crowning perfection of all other substances in immensity—is living motion; and the result of that motion is thought and power. It is the living Spirit from whom emanates electricity, has created all worlds. Hence, the Creator is a real substance or being, possessing personal identity, and is infinite in every perfection of his adorable character.”

To the objections urged against clairvoyance, he answers,—

“We will now take into consideration the philosophy of clairvoyance. It is evident that *seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling*, belong exclusively to the mind. And as we have clearly proved that electricity is the only substance that can come in contact with mind, so it is through the agency of this fluid that sensations are transmitted to the mind. Hence, it is through the medium of electricity that we see, hear, feel, taste, and smell. The power of sight being in the mind, it is evident that we never saw anything out of our eyes. The whole of this congregation, with all their different costumes, their various complexions and different appearances, are struck upon the retina of the speaker's eye, on about the bigness of a quarter of an inch. By the agency of electricity it is conveyed through the optic nerve to the mind where it is seen. Hence, we never saw a piece of matter but only its shadow, the same as when you look into a mirror, it is not yourself, but your image that you see. Electricity is that substance that passes through all other substances. Air cannot pass through your cranium, nor through these walls, nor metallic substances. But as all these have countless millions of pores, electricity can pass through them. Now if our nervous system could be charged with the nervo-vital fluid, so as to render the brain positive, and thus bring it into an exact equilibrium or balance with external electricity, then we should be clairvoyant. Because the nervous system being duly charged, and even surcharged, the great quantity of this fluid passing in right lines from the mind, as a common centre, and in every direction through the pores of the skull, renders it transparent. Uniting with external electricity which passes through these walls and all substances, which are also transparent, the image of the whole universe, as it were, in this transparent form, is thrown upon the mind, and is there seen, and seen, too, independent of the retina. On this principle, the whole of those objects which are opaque to natural vision, are rendered transparent to the clairvoyant, and he sees through walls in succession, and takes cognizance of their relative distances, on the same principle that we in a wakeful state, could look through said walls if they were thin, transparent glass. On this principle, if the subject be charged too much or too little, he cannot see clearly. Or if the night be rainy, or even damp, and unfavourable to electricity, then experiments in clairvoyance must fail, or be very imperfect. The subject must be magnetically charged exactly to that degree which will bring him into magnetic equilibrium with external electricity. Then, if the night be favourable, the experiments will most likely prove successful.”

In illustration of the truth of this, he gives some examples of natural clairvoyance, in the persons of somnambulists, and of patients in a state of catalepsy. It will be seen by our extracts that the book is well worth perusing.



## MESMERISM.

After a fair and diligent examination, in the course of which Dr. Delen, a pupil and partner of Mesmer, repeated a number of experiments in the presence of the Commissioners, some of which were tried upon themselves, they determined it was a mere trick intended to impose on the ignorant and credulous, and gave in their report accordingly to his Majesty, which was afterwards published for the information of the people. Mesmer and his associate Delen, were thus interrupted in their career to wealth and fame, and a most insolent attempt to impose upon the human understanding was baffled. Franklin, in a letter to his friend, Dr. Ingenhansy says,—"Mesmer continues here and has still some adherents, and some practice. It is surprising how much credulity still subsists in the world. I suppose all the physicians in France put together have not made so much money during the time he has been here as he alone has done, and we have now a fresh folly. A magnetizer pretends that he can establish what is called a *rappor* between any person and a *somnambule*, by a simple strong volition only, without speaking or making any signs, and more people daily flock to see this strange operation.—*Memoirs of Benjamin Franklin, by Himself and Grandson. Vol. I.*

In the performance of our primary duty of destroying every germ of credulity which exposes the ignorant and the weak to self-delusions, or to the impositions of the crafty and dishonest, we exposed in our last publication a most pernicious and scandalous attempt to re-get up the old humbug of Mesmerism. *The Times* has defended the trickery with its usual inclinations to fraud, and its invariable ignorance of science. Mesmer, a German Physician, first published his quackery of Planetary influences in 1766, in which he maintained the gross absurdity of the old astrologers, that the planets diffused through the nerves of man and all animals, a subtle fluid, of which he could give no explanation, but which he afterwards pretended to prove by his *hocus-pocus* conjurations on the human body, which he called Mesmerism. So far the mode of reasoning was fair, for in sciences we can often prove facts before we can explain principles. The cunning rogue went to Paris at a period of great intellect (1778), but so prone is the mind to a belief in the marvellous and the miraculous, that the quack rapidly cheated the Parisians of 348,000 livres. The Government appointed a commission of inquiry, at the head of which was the celebrated astronomer and politician Bailly, and the commission comprised many eminent physicians, and men of different sciences, amongst whom was the illustrious Dr. Franklin, as competent a judge of the subject as any man that ever existed. The quack of course absconded with his money, declining "to come to the scratch," or to explain anything, but one of his deputies undertook to explain all things, and after exhibitions, experiments and careful investigation, the President Bailly drew up an admirable report, exposing the whole imposition. "*The Times*," always incorrect or mendacious, states Dr. Franklin to have been at the head of the commission, which is not the fact, though the error of *The Times* is immaterial. After a lapse of more than sixty years, this occult science is re-produced as something mysterious and wonderful, without any new facts, elucidations, or principles being brought forward in the interim. The performer of the jugglery, whom we exposed in our last number, announced that he was to Mesmerise a young woman at his private apartment, on the 23d,\* and we need not say, that in a place like London, there are plenty of young men that will pay to see tricks played on what M. De la Fontaine, called *une jeune fille*. However, when the crisis arrived, the young girl was not to be had, "for love or money," and the tom-foolery which we have already exposed, was played off on the identical French boy, on whom the *à-la-presto* tricks were exhibited at the Hanover-square rooms. One of the company, a gentleman, indignantly required that the experiments should be made upon him, and they were made without the slightest effect though the Mesmeriser did his best.

The works that we have seen on the subject, expose a roguery on one part, and a credulity on the other, which might inspire with jealousy the Ghosts of Swedenborg, Irvine, Johanna Southcote, or Mad Thom of Canterbury. A clergyman for instance, named Townsend has written a heavy and long work on the subject, and it will be useful as well as entertaining to expose to our readers the enormous extent to which fraud, falsehood and mysticism can be carried, on a calculation of public ignorance and credulity. The clergyman's work depends much on proving that Mesmerised people can see without eyes, and we should suppose that they equally could hear without ears, smell without noses, eat without mouths, and have all lively and acute sensations without nerves or organs of any sort. One case is just as possible as the other. We have a host of testimonies of the mysterious influence, all given by persons without reference to their characters or particular places of residence. This is clumsily done by the Reverend Charlatan for every English quack in his advertisement, will give scores of residences and names to vouch for his wonderful cures. Mr. Townsend's first witness states that a patient being thoroughly blinded by wrappers, he began pinching Mr. T. in all parts of his body, and the impudent witness says, that whenever he "*bruised*" the Mesmeriser by his pinches, the Mesmeriser evinced by her features that she felt the pain in similar parts of her body, which parts, out of decency, are not specified. In another case a Mesmerisee being thoroughly blinded told the witness when the Mesmeriser took a glass of wine or ate a biscuit, and declared that he saw with his forehead, and by which he afterwards read the dial of a watch and a book, as well as a piece of music, which he played *instantly* on the flute, by this vision of the forehead. Had the forehead been bandaged, we have no doubt that the miraculised patient would have seen by the nose, the elbow, or the *os cockeygis*, if either were uncovered. We have another exhibition, in which this wondrous patient, whose name is not given, on being blindfolded, could play at cards, although this is superfluous evidence; for, if by Mesmerism you could make a person read music unknown to him, and play it on the flute, you might easily suppose that he could play cards, or even *à la Roos*, play the devil, without his eyes. Once make a man see without eyes, and you will produce a greater miracle by making men refuse to believe without evidence. Another witness deposes that this nameless boy read a book put before him when he was thoroughly blindfolded. If he could do this, he could equally read a book unopened or placed behind him, or put into another room, or even in another quarter of the world, for all such cases are identical in principle, and a man who can read without seeing or feeling, can just as easily read a work that may or may not be written a hundred years hence, as one that was published a hundred years ago. The clergyman—and the clergy are always dupers or dupees (in 999 out of 1,000 cases the former)—tells us of a mesmerised patient who, being most thoroughly blind-folded, read with ease, and declared that he did it by the organ of the stomach. A proverb says, that a man cannot have eyes placed in the *clunis* or *nates*, but this is of no consequence, for he can see, if mesmerised, from any part of the body, without eyes of any sort. The Irishman's gun that shot round the corner was nothing to the Mesmerising miracle, which makes a man see from his forehead or stomach. A Jury would be puzzled by a witness who swore that he saw by his forehead, stomach, or any thing

and protracted for the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, and a length the Duchess came forward, whereupon the cheers of the multitude were most enthusiastic. The Noble Premier was then called for. His Lordship made his *debut* to a Bedfordshire audience after much pressing, and was most heartily received. At eight o'clock her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert entered the grand dining-room, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Bedford; and the following circle formed the party;—The Duke of Wellington, Duke and Duchess of Leinster, Duke of Devonshire, Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, Dowager Duchess of Bedford and Lady Georgiana Russell, Earl and Countess de Grey, Viscount Melbourne, Marquis of Headfort, Lord in Waiting on her Majesty, Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston, Lord Charles Russell, Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Lord and Lady Wrothesley Russell, Lord Otho Fitzgerald, Lady Jane Fitzgerald, Dowager Lady Lyttleton, Lady in Waiting on her Majesty; Colonel Buckley, Equerry in Waiting on the Queen; Hon. Miss Cavendish, Maid of Honour in Waiting on the Queen; Hon. Mr. Anson, Equerry in Waiting on his Royal Highness Prince Albert; the Mon. Henry Stanhope, &c. During the dinner and dessert a fine selection of music from several favourite operas was played by a band composed of several first-rate performers, under the able presidency of Signor Puzzi. At seven o'clock the whole of the principal tenantry of the Noble Duke dined together in the tennis-court, Mr. Bennett, his Grace's land steward, presiding. Upwards of 170 sat down to an excellent repast. Woburn at night was enlivened by a profuse display of fireworks, and three or four fire balloons ascended in the evening, to the infinite delight of a large portion of the inhabitants.

Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and suite left Woburn on Thursday for Pansanger. The Marquis of Salisbury, as Lieutenant-Colonel of the South Herts Yeomanry, had the honour of receiving the Royal party with the yeomanry on the borders of the county, and formed a guard of honour, passing through St. Albans and Hatfield to the seat of Earl Cowper. Preparations upon an extensive scale were made to testify the loyalty of the district through which her Majesty passed. The mayors of St. Albans and Hertford issued notices of calling upon the inhabitants to keep the day as a general holiday. Addresses were presented by the corporations of each of the above towns; that of the former upon the arrival of her Majesty at St. Albans, and that from the inhabitants of Hertford upon the arrival of the Royal party at Pansanger.

It is understood that between 800 and 1,000 individuals are leaving Sir Robert Peel for appointments to such principal employments as are usually filled up anew by a new Government. Sir Robert is about to retreat from his incessant tormentors for a few weeks to the Continent.

Lord John Russell intends, before he tenders his resignation, to require a distinct decision and full discussion of the Corn Law and Sugar Duties.

The unfavourable accounts respecting the health of Mr. Roebuck are contradicted. The Hon. Member is sojourning in Hampshire, where he is fast recruiting his health.

tain persons to point out the source of springs was long treated as fictitious but in the 22nd volume of the "*Quarterly Review*" there is a well-authenticated case of Lady N.'s exhibiting this power in the presence of Dr. Hutton and others, in a field near the new college at Woolwich, and subsequently at other places. It would be an endless task to enumerate the frequent divergence from the ordinary laws of the human economy, in persons of peculiar idiosyncrasies, but we shall merely notice in passing the fact of Chabert swallowing eleven grains of phosphorus, and we forget how many of arsenic, with impunity—a circumstance which, in a great measure, corroborates the statement of the Roman historian, that Mithridates was insensible to poison, while it brings to mind the anecdote of the ancient dame who had lived so long on poison that none could approach her bed without destruction. (See notes to "*Grey's Hudibras*.")

Now, we ask, is there any thing more wonderful in Mesmerism than in the facts we have enumerated? We think not. But we are not insisting on the truth of the doctrines of Mesmer; all we contend for is, an impartial inquiry into the merits.

What analogy is there between a man's seeing at an extraordinary distance, and a man seeing without eyes by his forehead or his stomach. There is a strict analogy between a Brahmin sitting on the air, and a witch riding through the air in a sieve or on a broomstick, and if we believe one, we would equally believe the other. Faith was well tried by the miracle of Jonah, and the pietist very properly declared that whether the whale swallowed Jonah, or Jonah swallowed the whale, or that each simultaneously swallowed the other, was equally reconcilable to faith. As to a man who could voluntarily expire, and of course voluntarily return to life, it only shows that a live man and a dead man have equally active powers of choice, volition, or voluntary actions, and if a man can bury himself for a month, and unbury himself at its expiration, we have no doubt that he could perform the miracle from quarter-day to quarter-day, and thus outwit the landlord and all the tax-gatherers, tailors, &c. In an action for a tailor's bill it would be curious to hear the defendant plead in person that he had died since the clothes had been supplied, and that the action should be brought against his executors. How would an undertaker fare in bringing an action against a living man for the expenses of having buried him? As to the case of the hazel twig, the imposition was practised on that learned man Dr. Hutton, in his old age; but a proof of its absurdity or fraud lies in the fact that this miraculous and most useful of all wonders has died a natural death, and a man who pretended to direct an Artesian well-borer or any well-digger by a hazel twig, would be as much laughed at as he who should propose to create a Thames Tunnel or another Birmingham-railroad, by dint of the relics of some forgotten Saint. The article in *The Quarterly Review* upon the hazel twig we recollect, and it was execrably nonsensical. The old philosopher or rather mathematician was completely bamboozled by the young lady. Why did not *The Times*, in its wondrous learning, mention Dr. Johnson and the Cock-lane Ghost. As to the French fire-eater Monsieur Chabert, it happens that the writer of this present article in *THE WEEKLY DISPATCH*, duly exposed in *The Morning Chronicle* that unfortunate man's gross impositions on his first appearance in England, when *The Times*, in its invariable ignorance of science, and its interminable proneness to frauds of every description, fell into the trap, and puffed the impostor in its first report, and attempting to get out of its awkward scrape by a second report, it made the very bad by far worse. As to the classic correctness of *The Times* in such terms as "*peculiar idiosyncrasies*," we leave them to the admiration of classical scholars, confessing that we are incapable of understanding how an idiosyncrasy can be otherwise than a peculiarity. Better Grecians than we are may discover the difference. The logic of *The Times* is admirable: it argues from individuals to generals in the true style of priestcraft. Its doctrine is that, because an individual or two may be a contradiction of all nature, all nature may be a contradiction to itself; and thus because one man may be under the influence of an almost miraculous power of swallowing poison, or of sitting on the air, all mankind may be Mesmerised. The boobyism of *The Times* is

a real fraud or a real miracle. "One man can swallow arsenic with impunity," says a newspaper report, and up springs a clerical author, or a French quack, to prove that by analogy, all men, or most men, very properly Mesmerised, can see from their bellies or foreheads, or in a profound state of sleep perform feats that would out-rival Grimaldi of yore, or the Munchausen of immortal reputation. The essence of priestcraft lies in this sort of reasoning—man must believe all nonsense, because he cannot understand something produced to his senses, and which he knows to be facts. "You do not understand, and never can understand, primary causes, such as the revolution of the planets, or the relative angles of the *molecule* of matter," and therefore, says the priest, or the juggler, or quack of any description, "You must not reject my doctrine because you do not understand it." Faith must be in proportion to fraud.\* A man must be mad, or a fool, or something much worse than either, who can argue that because nature, without mesmerism, has given to one man an extraordinary power of eyes, that therefore nature, with mesmerism, must give to all men a power of seeing without eyes at all. Shakespeare speaks of "the mind's eye," and Mesmerites make a patient see with the forehead. Great geniuses will have the same ideas. A vulgar nurse says to a greedy child, "your eyes are bigger than your belly;" but as Mesmerites make the belly capable of seeing, the nursery dictum is not true, for the belly cannot receive what is larger than itself; the smaller cannot contain the greater is an absolute truth, except in theology, which is established on the reverse doctrine. Shakespeare says, "Oh that a man should put an enemy in his mouth to steal away his brains;" but pietists say, "Oh, let one man put another man in his mouth to steal away his sins."

We have no objection whatever to Mesmerism, but let it be proved by scientific experiments, and the facts being established, let the principles be open to discussion; but after this most impudent quackery has been exploded for more than sixty years, to have it revived without a single additional proof of its solidity, is too great a trespass upon the credulity or vice even of a fanatic.

[We have brought this Mesmerism to the point, that it must either die immediately, or submit itself to very public and severe scrutiny. Dr. Elliotson, who was so very properly dismissed his hospital, has an opportunity of vindicating his character. His predictions, &c., at the hospital, are almost incredible.—Ed.]

\* The philosophy of self-delusion is curious, and the facts are equally so. The innocent old women that were burnt alive for witchcraft, often died convinced of their guilt, and confessing it. No man believes in ghosts, and yet there are many cases of ghosts having been seen, heard, and felt, attested on evidence that it would be impossible to disprove, except on the principle of mental delusion. The victims destroyed on the evidence of Titus Oates and his associates, are felt by every body to have been innocent, and yet an acute logician or philosopher, or a most astute lawyer, would be puzzled to show that the evidence was not sufficient to convince the most sceptical mind that they were guilty. A remarkable instance of delusion strikes our recollection. Dr. Pinkard, a physician, (not a reverend doctor, and therefore a suspicious evidence on such a subject), relates that in Jamaica he was standing by a young negro, a full grown, powerful, and healthy woman, sucking her child, when a hideous dwarfish, shrivelled, old black man casually passed. The woman suddenly conceived that this was Oboe, come to charm or curse her child. No effort to disabuse her mind prevailed. She lost her milk and the power of retaining her secretions. Her flesh rapidly withered, and in a very short time she died. Such persons make the fortunes of priests and quacks. Were Dr. Johnson alive, we have no doubt but that he would be Mesmerised. What tortures men and women will bear and inflict on themselves under the delusion of fanaticism, or the impositions of priestcraft. We have seen sailors produce and cheerfully bear terrible wounds inflicted on themselves in order to get rid of the service. Such facts are interminable.

## MESMERISM DERIVED FROM ANCIENT EGYPT.

The Egyptians, according to Diodorus Siculus, regarded Isis as the author of a good part of what is known in medicine, through dreams, with which she inspired such patients as had recourse to her "advice." Ælius Aristides, who lived under the Antonines, gives just such an account of his being healed by medicaments, indicated to him in a dream, in a temple of Esculapius. What is this but *clairvoyance* and mesmeric agency? Marcus Antonius himself acknowledges, with thanks, his having been healed in the same temple, by similar means: that is by curative means, the knowledge of which was given him in dreams. This prescribing of such persons for themselves and others in dreams, or in a dreamlike state, is a phenomenon by no means peculiar to modern times, or its re-appearance under the process taught us by Mesmer. While it puts into our hands a key to what seems enigmatic about the oracles of the heathen world, it tells strongly for that portion of mesmeric agency which relates to *artificial sleep*, and the state in which persons so subjected are thrown. The oracles were first consulted in cases of sickness; the suffering persons slept in the temple, after they had gone through some ceremonies of preparation. In the dreams which followed (as alleged), they frequently came to the knowledge of the means proper for the cure of their diseases, and ascribed this to the inspiration of the divinity to whom the temple they slept in was consecrated. Sometimes, instead of the patients, the priests (or priestesses) of the oracle had these dreams, and communicated them to the former. If the diseases yielded to the treatment pointed out, the remedy which had been employed was inscribed on a votive tablet, and hung up in the temple. Now the patients in the temples were thrown into a sleep, or other ecstatic condition, we have no positive accounts. Suffumigations, frictions, and different other processes, not without affinity to those used in mesmerising, were, as we know, employed in preparing those who came to consult the oracle.—*Medical Times.*

Aug 1841



# GLEANINGS FROM LITERATURE.

## HUMAN MAGNETISM.

Its claims to dispassionate inquiry. By R. NEWNHAM, Esq., M.R.S.L.

Mr. Newnham has certainly produced a most interesting book. Without, however, becoming converts to the science, we cannot deny, with the extraordinary cases which the author presents, that the subject is not well worthy of investigation. They are truly wonderful; but so are the performances of the Wizard of the North. Mr. Newnham is candid enough, however, to admit that there is much in IMAGINATION; which he acknowledges goes a long way to produce many of the phenomena, but insists that it could not produce the whole. Be it so: but Mr. Newnham by no means clears up the mystery, but leaves it where we found it.

We shall now proceed to extract some of the most remarkable cases from the report of the Commission of the Royal Academy of France, and leave our readers to draw their own conclusions of Somnambulism and Clairvoyance:—

### CASE OF M. PETIT.

M. Ribes, member of the Academy, presented a catalogue which he drew from his pocket. The somnambulist, after some efforts which seemed to fatigue him, read very distinctly these words:—*Lavater, it is very difficult to know men.* These last words were printed in a very small type. A passport was placed before his eyes; he recognized it, and described it under the term *pass-man*. Some minutes afterwards, a license to carry arms was substituted for the passport, to which it has the greatest possible resemblance, and it was presented to him by its blank surface. M. Petit could only distinguish that it was a framed document, and very like the former; but on the other side being turned to him, after some moments of attention, he read distinctly these words, *de par le roi*, and on the left, *port d'armes*. An open letter was then shown him, which he said he could not read, not understanding English; it was, in fact, a letter in English.

M. Bourdois drew from his pocket a snuff-box, on which was a cameo set in gold. The somnambulist could not at first see it distinctly; he said that the gold case blinded his eyes. When the gold setting was covered with the fingers, he said he perceived the emblem of fidelity. Being urged to say what was that emblem, he added, I see a dog; he is as if prepared for a sacrifice before the altar:—this was, in fact, the figure represented.

A sealed letter was shown him: he could discover nothing of its contents. He merely followed the direction of the lines with his finger:—but he read easily the address, although it contained a very difficult name—A. M. de Rothenstroth.

All these trials fatigued M. Petit extremely. He was left to rest for a short time; then, as he was very fond of play, it was proposed to him, in order to relieve him, to take a hand at cards. In proportion as these experiments of pure curiosity seemed to have annoyed and fatigued him, so did he accomplish with ease and dexterity that which gave him pleasure, and to which he was led by his own inclination.

One of the party, M. Raynal, formerly inspector of the university, played a game at piquet with M. Petit, and lost. The latter played his cards with the greatest ease, and without ever being wrong. Many times we uselessly tried to put him out in his play by subtracting or changing the cards—he counted with surprising facility the number of points marked on the cards of his adversary which he had to play to.

### CASE OF PAUL VILLAGRAND.

On the 12th of January the commission reassembled at the house of M. Foissac, where were already M. Em de las Cases; M. le Comte de Rumigny; first aide-de-camp of the king; and M. de Ségas, member of the Academy. M. Foissac told us, that he was about to somnambulise Paul, and that in that state, with a finger placed upon each closed eye, he would, notwithstanding the complete occlusion of the eyelids, distinguish the colour of cards, read the title of a book, and even some words or lines taken by chance from the body of the work itself. After two minutes of magnetic passes, Paul was asleep. The eyelids being held firmly closed, constantly and alternately, by MM. Fouquier, Itard, Marc, and the reporter, a pack of new cards, of which the stamped envelope was torn at the moment, was presented to him: they were shuffled, and Paul recognised easily and successively the king of spades, the ace of clubs, the queen of spades, the nine of clubs, the seven of diamonds, the queen of diamonds, and the eight of diamonds.

The eyes being still firmly closed, but now by M. Ségas, a volume with which the reporter was furnished was presented to him. He read on the title-page, *Histoire de France*. He could not read the two next lines, but then read the name *Anquetil*, which was preceded by the preposition *par*. The

book was opened at p. 89, and he read in the first line *le nombre de ses*; he passed over the word *troupes*, and continued, *au moment où on le croyait la plus occupé des plaisirs du carnaval*. He read also the running title *Louis*, but could not read the Roman figures which followed. A paper was given to him on which had been written the words *agglutination* and *magnétisme animal*; he spelt the first and pronounced the other two. Finally they presented to him the *procès-verbal* of this sitting; he read distinctly the date, and some words more legibly written than the rest. In all these trials the fingers had been applied over the whole of the opening of both eyes, pressing the upper downwards upon the lower eyelid; and we remarked that the globe of the eye had been in a constant movement of rotation, and seemed to be directed towards the object of vision.

### CASE OF M. CALIXTE.

Calixte, being magnetised, a card was applied over the region of the heart, and he pronounced it to be, without any hesitation, the ace of spades. The eyes being plugged with cotton, and then covered with a thick bandage, he played with perfectly new cards, several games at *écarté*, with some of the most accepic, and that without being once wrong. If his adversary announced a card different from the one which he had actually played, the somnambulist was displeased, complained of the bad faith, and generally added:—Why do you wish to deceive me? I see better than you do, and in order to prove it, there still remain in your hands such and such cards.

One of the players, being extremely distrustful, having raised the bandage of the magnetised, in order to convince himself that no ray of light could possibly reach the visual organ, received from the somnambulist a violent apostrophe in rather unmeasured language, and owed his conversion to magnetism to the following experiment.

"You think, then, that I can see by my eyes, do you?" said the somnambulist. "You yourself, then, are blind enough not to understand that my eyelids, being compressed by the plugs and bandage which are horribly uncomfortable to me, it is perfectly impossible for me to perceive anything by my ordinary senses. Well, then, go into the next room—fasten against the wall with a white wafer, any card of your own choice, and you will then know whether I can recognise it or not." Calixte in a short time announced the king of diamonds, which was the fact.

Twelve pieces of ribbon of different colours or shades, were next presented to him, and he distinguished each in the most precise manner.

A watch "*en savonnette*," that is in the form of a globe, was shown to him, the hands having been previously misplaced; and this being placed over the region of the heart, he told the precise hour which it indicated.

"Gentlemen," said M. Ricard on another occasion, "we intend to try to make Calixte execute certain movements which you will indicate to me—and without any ordinary communication with him; as soon as the card shall be given me, on which the movements to be executed have been described, I will speak to him no more, and will remain without movement. Calixte," said he, placing himself before his somnambulist, who was seated, "I am about to give you some directions—attend to me—and do what I tell you." At this moment, M. L. took one of the cards and presented it to M. Ricard, who, after having read it, dropped both his arms, looked steadfastly at Calixte, and remained himself immovable. After some minutes waiting, the somnambulist said, "*I know not what to do!*" and the first experiment failed. The second and third failed equally.

"Gentlemen," said he then, "negative facts, however numerous, cannot invalidate positive facts;—thus should all the experiments which I am about to institute fail, vision, notwithstanding the closure of the eyes by a thick bandage, would not be in any measure unproved. Moreover, we are perhaps too numerous; and I should not be surprised if the clairvoyance of the patient were exhausted for to-day; nevertheless, we will continue the trial." Consequently a fourth, and then a fifth experiment was tried, and partially succeeded, but only partially, for it was necessary to prompt the somnambulist a little. A sixth experiment was then tried, which I will describe, because its success was complete.

Calixte, his eyes bandaged as before, sat with his face turned towards the wall; three paces behind him were M. Ricard and M. Teste, and at twenty paces there stood an organ. All was quiet, the sound of the organ began, and at the same time Calixte beat time; but after some minutes, and immediately after a sign which M. Teste made with the hand to M. Ricard, the somnambulist ceased beating the time, although the magnetiser said nothing, and although the sound of the organ continued.

Such was the sixth experiment, and I will now relate the last, which was also attended with complete success.

As soon as the attention of the somnambulist was thoroughly gained by his magnetiser, M. L. gave him one of the hundred little cards, of which I have before spoken: then Calixte, his eyes being still bandaged, arose from his seat, advanced some steps towards his magnetiser—stopped for an instant—returned—stopped again—got up into a chair—stamped

his feet impatiently—then finally placed his heels upon one corner of the chair—closely applied his arms to the whole length of his body—became stiffened all over—then inclined himself backward—and finally fell in a heap into the arms of M. Ricard, who had purposely come and placed himself behind him.

The card was now given to us, and contained the following sentence:—"Make the somnambulist get up into a chair, and then make him fall backwards into the arms of his magnetiser."

Thus terminated our sitting, the most interesting, and perhaps the most complete, which has ever taken place in Paris. I have thanked M. Ricard for it, as for a great benefit which he has conferred upon me.

### INTERESTING CASE OF NATURAL SOMNAMBULISM.

The patient was a young lady who had been thrown into a state of nervous excitement by the sudden death of her father. Some of her senses were lost, and others exalted to an extraordinary degree.

All colours she can distinguish with the greatest correctness by night or by day, whether presented to her on cloth, silk, muslin, wax, or even glass—and this as easily on any part of the body as with the hands, although of course the ordinary routine of such an exhibition of power takes place with the hands,—the other being that of mere curiosity. Her delicacy of mind, and high tone of religious feeling are such, that she has the greatest objection to make that which she regards in the light of a heavy affliction from God, a matter of show or curiosity to others, although to ourselves, of course, all these unusual extravagances of nervous sensibility are manifest for at least twelve out of every twenty-four hours. She can not only read with the greatest rapidity any writing that is legible to us, music, &c., with the mere passing of her fingers over it, whether in a dark or light room (for her sight is for the most part suspended when under the influence of the attack, or paroxysm, although she is perfectly sensible,—nay, more acute and clever than in her natural state); but within this month past she has been able to collect the contents of any printing or MS. by merely laying her hand on the page, without tracing the lines or letters, and on one occasion declared the contents of a note just brought into the room in this way with a rapidity with which it could not have been read by daylight.



Sir,

A few years since it used to be the custom of foreign physicians to praise the good sense of their brethren in England, for not having written a single line upon Animal Magnetism. This praise they cannot now lay claim to, thanks to the labours of Dr. Elliotson and others. Books issue from the press, itinerant lecturers parade each town, and the lovers of the marvellous retail to their friends the wonderful effects of this pretended science. But, surely, if any person did understand Mesmerism, it must be its own apostle Mesmer himself. I therefore shall lay before your readers some of his own words, leaving their good sense (if they possess any), to say whether the under-described magnetic fluid ever existed. "It is a fluid universally diffused; it is the means of a mutual influence between celestial bodies, the earth, and animated bodies. The action and virtue of Animal Magnetism may be communicated from one body to other bodies, animate or inanimate. This action occurs at a remote distance, without the assistance of any intermediate body; it is augmented and reflected by ice, communicated, propagated, and augmented by sound. Though this fluid be universal, all animated bodies are not susceptible of it; there are some even (though small in number) who have a property so opposite, that their presence alone destroys all the effects of this fluid in other bodies. By means of magnetism the physician knows the state of health of every individual, and judges with certainty of the origin, the nature, and progress of the most complicated diseases; he prevents their increase, and succeeds in curing them, without ever exposing the patient to dangerous or fatal effects, whatever may be their age, temperament, or sex."—Memoire de Mesmer, sur la deconverte du Magnetisme Animal, p. 74.

Mesmer says that the action of his fluid is augmented by sound, and in his practice he used to call in the aid of the piano to produce his Mesmeric effects. Now it is well known that music has exciting or depressing effects without the assistance of his pretended fluid.

But there was one thing that ought to open all eyes, which formed a part of the practice of Mesmer. It was this. In the different trials which his solicitude for his pretended science led him to institute, he perceived that convulsive attacks equally arose in patients disposed to them, whether he passed his artificial magnets over the patients (for he first used mineral magnetism) or simply used for this mysterious operation a bar of common iron, or even his hand only. This fact once proved, should have convinced him that the convulsive agitations which he excited were caused neither by the magnets, nor any magnetic emanation, and that when such opposite agents as a magnet and the simple application of the hand produced the same effects, the cause of those effects must be sought in a third principle, viz., in the diseased imagination of the patient.

It is singular that the persons who attend lectures on Mesmerism do not require the operator to perform on some of the company, taken at hazard, and not upon their well-drilled puppets. Where this condition has been required, the magnetisers have generally failed. But I shall be referred to facts, to experiments, which they say cannot be denied. To this I reply in the words of Hippocrates: "Experimentum fallax, judicium difficile." If to establish the solidity of a doctrine, experiments alone sufficed, is there a single one in medicine that has any more striking and numerous facts than those in favour of animal magnetism? All the cities of France have seen the singular and unequivocal effects of this miraculous power. The people, astonished by these phenomena, believed in the agent of Mesmer, and prostrated themselves before his magnets; but the philosopher reasons, and easily distinguishes through the outside of these extraordinary events, not a physical, but a moral agent. The power of the secret play of the passions over the human body, has been long known. The annals of Medicine offer examples the most striking and authenticated. Many times convulsive epidemics have seized upon entire cities, without any cause but this internal action. What is still more surprising, on some occasions this physical trouble, excited by a moral trouble, has produced curative effects, and suddenly removed diseases, vainly attempted to be cured any other way. Many years before Mesmer, Dr. James in his Dictionary of Medicine, speaking of the talismans and amulets of the ancients, said "that these remedies, inert in themselves, sometimes made impressions upon the mind, which were communicated to the body, which on certain occasions, might change for the better the state of its parts." This observation is strikingly illustrated by an anecdote given by Blackmore, the poet, and physician to William and Mary:—"A learned and worthy clergyman of Oxford, said thus to me one day in conversation:—'While I was at dinner with a country gentleman and his lady, she complained to me that her young son was afflicted with such an obstinate ague, that no medicine that the doctors had prescribed could remove. I replied, though I was not in earnest, Madam, there are many celebrated charms for curing that disease, why will you not make use of one for the child's recovery?' Her answer was, Sir, I should not be unwilling to employ any which you should recommend; and with that I turned the conversation to another subject, hoping to hear no more of the spell. When I had taken my leave and was come to my inn, she sent to me for my charm, when, calling for pen and ink, I writ in a character these words, 'He is a fool that will be cured by this;' and I sent the paper rolled up to her with this direction, 'that she should tie it with a blue silk string about her son's elbow an hour before the fit;' and about a month after I was surprised to see her servant sent on purpose some miles to give me thanks for the cure of her son, who was then, as she assured me by the messenger, perfectly well, having had no return of the ague after the first application of the charm."

This effect is easily accounted for by the moral confidence and courage produced in the boy by the charm. But, if any person is disposed to use Mesmerism as a therapeutic application, he should remember that in every kind of trouble excited in the body by the passions of the mind, whether dull or vehement, physical good but rarely happens, and by accident. It is a game of hazard, the chances of which are almost always bad. Some years ago, there existed in France the Abbe Paris, whose whole life was a course of the most absurd and painful superstitious. He abridged him-

self even of the necessities of life, and was, in fact, accessory to his own death, by refusing proper assistance and better nourishment, when he was manifestly drawing near his end, in consequence of his extreme austerities. The people used to go on pilgrimages to his tomb, convulsions, swoonings, &c., &c., were produced, some cures effected, and the Abbe passed into a saint. Now, I can no more believe that these miracles were produced by supernatural agency, than I can believe that the case mentioned by Racine and Pascal of a person afflicted with fistula lacrymalis, was miraculously cured after having touched with his eye a relic which they pretended was one of the thorns of the crown of Christ. There were some scrofulous tumours which sunk under the royal touch of the kings of England and France: are we to attribute to them the power of working miracles, or the cure to the imagination of the patient?

When the Mesmerisers assure us, that their patients can tell the time from a watch placed behind their backs, or at the pit of the stomach, or through a door, I may be permitted to state, that I could not believe such a thing, even if I saw it, simply because it would be contrary to the laws of nature. Delaplace has laid down the value of evidence too clearly to permit any person to be deceived by such assertions:—"The probability of the error or lying of a witness is so much the greater, as the fact which he attests is more extraordinary. Some authors have advanced the contrary; but simple good sense repels so strange an assertion, and the calculation of probabilities, confirms the indications of common sense, and appreciates, moreover, the improbability of evidence on extraordinary facts. We may judge by it of the immense weight of evidence necessary to admit the suspension of the natural laws; and how absurd it would be to apply to this case the ordinary rules of practice. All those who, without offering this immensity of evidence, support what they advance by recitations contrary to these laws, weaken rather than increase the credibility which they wish to inspire; for then these recitations render error or lying very probable. But what diminishes the credence of enlightened men, often increases that of the vulgar, who are always fond of the marvellous. There are things so extraordinary that nothing can balance their improbability. An absurd recital, admitted unanimously in the century which gave birth to it, offers to the following centuries but a fresh proof of the extreme influence of general opinion over the best minds. Two great men of the age of Louis the 14th, Racine and Pascal, are striking examples of it."

M. Foissac, in his book on Magnetism, has had the temerity to class Moses and Christ amongst the Mesmerisers. But M. Foissac should have remembered that the Divine Author of our most holy religion could not work miracles sometimes, because of the want of faith in his hearers, whereas the Mesmerisers pretend that they can work their miracles whether the patient will or no.

In conclusion, it appears to me that the pretended magnetic fluid, which makes of two persons, the mesmeriser and the mesmerised, one person, does not exist; that all the effects produced must be referred to the power of the imagination, but that Mesmer deserves our thanks for having made more known the immense power and great sensibility of the mind, soul, sensitive being, or whatever name you may give it, which governs our organs, and for having displayed before our eyes all the extent of this concealed and marvellous principle.

I purpose, in a future letter, to expose its sister-delusion, Phrenology.

Your obedient servant,

WM. PINCKARD.

Towcester, Dec. 26, 1843.



MESMERISM AND ANIMAL MAGNETISM AT BEDFORD.—LECTURES BY A PROFESSOR, AND TESTS BY A DISINTERESTED PERSON.

The inhabitants of Bedford have just had a fair opportunity of seeing a good specimen of Mesmerism, and of testing the truth of the science. Public announcement was made that two lectures would be given on the subject by Mr. J. Inwards, a professor, and that specimens of the Mesmeric influence would be given at the meetings. The first lecture was given at the New Rooms, on Thursday evening, before an audience of from 400 to 500 persons, comprising some of the most respectable families of the town. The chair was taken by Mr. George Hurst. After Mr. Inwards had explained the principles of the science, he called upon the platform his Mesmeric patient, who accompanied him on his lecturing excursions, and whom he introduced to the meeting as Mrs. Barnes. She is a young woman of rather genteel appearance, with considerable pretensions to personal beauty—no more a thing of no interest in the Mesmeric performances. Mr. Inwards threw her into a Mesmeric sleep, and then operated upon the different organs of the brain by simply pointing to their situation. She kept up a lively conversation with him, and certainly some very extraordinary phenomena were displayed, which staggered the incredulity of many of the spectators. Some persons on the platform wrote upon slips of paper the organs which they wished excited, and showed to the lecturer, who then pointed to the locality of the organ, and certainly in most instances there was a manifestation of this particular faculty either in the conversation or the expression of countenance of the patient. There were, however, several medical men and persons interested in the experiments on the platform, watching the results very narrowly. The lecturer, among other things, drank some water; Mrs. Barnes instantly smacked her lips, and said how nice the water was that she had just drunk. The lecturer pointed this experiment out as a great piece of success, and great cheering and approbation in the meeting followed. Mr. Barker, the surgeon, then gave the lecturer a portion of salt to taste, but Mrs. Barnes was unable to tell what it was. This was accounted for in some way by the lecturer, who then exhibited another extraordinary phenomenon. He made some particular passes upon Mrs. Barnes' right arm, and it remained stretched out quite straight and firm. Some persons bent it down, but it instantly sprang back to its former position. This, the lecturer said, was a catalepsy induced by Mesmerism, and that it would remain so until he chose to recover it. Some surgeons examined it, and on lowering it and feeling the muscles at the same time, they unanimously declared it to be the opinion that it was no catalepsy, but that it was by a voluntary action on the part of the patient. Mr. Inwards was much annoyed at this opinion, and denied the correctness of it; he, however, concluded his lecture, having awoke Mrs. Barnes by rubbing her eyelids with his thumbs, keeping his fingers on the organ of benevolence, to prevent her "waking cross." The parties on the platform expressed their dissatisfaction with the experiments, and asked the lecturer to meet them on the following day, to which he consented, and the meeting then broke up.

On Friday morning a small party was invited to meet Mr. Inwards and Mrs. Barnes at the residence of Mr. Barker, the surgeon; there were present, besides them, Mr. Hedley and Mr. Blower, surgeons, Mr. Geo. Hurst, Mr. White, Mr. Wm. Kilpin, Mr. Long, and Mr. Wyatt. Mrs. Barnes sat down, and Mr. Geo. Hurst threw her into a Mesmeric sleep in about three minutes. A repetition of the experiments of the previous evening took place, and upon Mr. Hurst going out of the room the patient followed him, and dodged him back to her former situation, where he induced her to take her seat again. Whilst these experiments were being performed, Mr. Barker went quietly behind, and touched Mrs. Barnes' neck with a cold steel instrument, and she instantly shrank and said she felt sick. Mr. Inwards then stepped forward, and explained that the contact of metal invariably caused sickness and hysteria; and certainly Mrs. Barnes was very considerably convulsed, and she shed tears. The next experiment was tried by Mr. Wyatt, who took up a portion of Scotch snuff on the leather of a pen and put it in the nose of the patient. Mr. Inwards having asserted that the olfactory nerves were in a perfectly insensible state; and we are bound to state that Mrs. Barnes exhibited no sign of sneezing or of any inconvenience from the snuff. Mr. Hurst then awoke her, and she coughed and complained of something disagreeable in her head. After a short pause Mr. Barker requested permission to Mesmerize the patient, in order to try a few simple experiments that had been agreed upon in another room; but the lecturer and Mrs. Barnes refused—the former boldly asserting that the case had been taken out of his hands—that Mr. Hurst had performed what experiments the parties chose, and that "the whole of them had succeeded gloriously." To this some dissatisfaction was expressed by the company, and after a very long discussion, it was agreed that a few experiments should be decided upon, and that they be performed without the least intervention of Mr. Inwards, and for general satisfaction they should be performed in public at the evening's lecture. The parties who made this proposition named Mr. Wyatt as their representative to perform the experiment; he having some knowledge of the locality of the phrenological organs as laid down by the professors. These gentlemen also agreed to rest their opinions and decision of Mesmerism entirely upon the result of these tests, and promised they would subscribe to any testimonial to that effect upon the success of the theory as shown by them. In the evening there was a very large meeting of respectable persons, and the chair was again taken by Mr. Geo. Hurst, who, upon opening the business of the meeting, alluded to the experiments of the morning, which he said were satisfactory to him. Mr. Inwards made some observations, in the course of which he alluded to the unbelief of the Bedford surgeons in no very complimentary terms. Mr. Wyatt then stepped forward upon the platform and announced to the meeting the proposition that had been made to Mr. Inwards, and agreed to by him; and asked what time that evening he was to be allowed to perform the experiments. An animated discussion then ensued, and at first the lecturer seemed disposed to abandon his promise, but on referring to Mrs. Barnes she consented to be Mesmerized by Mr. Wyatt. Loud cheers followed this decision, and Mrs. Barnes then took her seat on the platform; and the Rev. E. Swan and other gentlemen suggested that Mr. Inwards should remove away from her. He accordingly descended from the platform and took his seat among the audience, stating that he left the case entirely in Mr. Wyatt's hands. Mr. Wyatt then took his seat opposite, and (in accordance with directions and instructions previously received from the lecturer) proceeded to Mesmerize the patient. He commenced by fixing his eyes attentively upon hers for about two minutes, when her eyelids began to flutter and a slight convulsive movement was visible in her lips. Mr. W. then made the usual passes with his right hand, and the patient's eyeballs turned up, and in a few seconds the lids fell quite over them and the patient's head fell quite back. Mr. Wyatt then got up and made the passes and wavings prescribed by the lecturer, and the patient was then pronounced to be in a pure Mesmeric sleep by the lecturer, who said she was now impervious to any impression upon either of her senses, except at the hands of the party who Mesmerized her. Mr. Wyatt then spoke to her, and kept up a brisk conversation, in which he was unjustifiably interrupted by Mr. Inwards. Mr. Wyatt then tried the silent system, all this while slyly testing his various pre-concerted experiments, and being carefully watched by four surgeons and a deputation of friends of the Mesmeric science. He quietly went through the whole of his experiments, bestowing a considerable time upon each. Several times the lecturer interposed, and when he saw a failure he said Mrs. Barnes was not fairly treated. Perhaps it would be better to give the result in Mr. Wyatt's own words as he announced it afterwards, and we now just allude to the events that transpired at this particular time. Mr. Inwards, evidently chagrined at the great failure, again interposed most unaccountably, and said that Mr. Wyatt was not sufficiently soothing, and that very likely Mrs. Barnes would go into hysterics. Now what this unkindness on the part of Mr. Wyatt was, we are at a loss to conceive, for he followed the precise directions given by the lecturer himself. However, Mr. Wyatt tried the soothing system, and again talked kindly to Mrs. Barnes. A great uproar was caused by some of the Mesmerists calling out "Shame," and Mr. Inwards seized the opportunity of appealing to their feelings by again saying that very likely Mrs. Barnes would go into hysterics if she were not treated kindly. A burst of laughter followed this interruption, and sure enough Mrs. Barnes began to cry and exhibit certain hysterical signs, and gave vent to great lamentations. Mr. Wyatt, however, by degrees soothed her, and then used the prescribed means for awaking her, which he did in about ten minutes, and Mrs. Barnes smiled on him very benignantly, and in reply to his questions said she felt very well, and had nothing the matter with her. He then handed her from her chair to some female friends of hers, who expressed their great pleasure at her being all right. Mr. Inwards then stepped forward and commenced in very harsh terms on the unbelief, and said the cause of failure was, that Mr. Wyatt entered upon the experiments with the prejudice of one who thought Mrs. Barnes was an impostor; and therefore there was not that sympathy between them that should exist for the purposes of displaying the principles of Mesmerism—(cries of "Oh, oh," and repeated calls for Mr. Wyatt to make a report of the result of his experiments.)

Mr. WYATT then came forward and addressed the meeting. He declined entering upon the particulars in the presence of Mrs. Barnes, whose feelings he was most unwilling to wound by observations that were likely to fall—(loud cheers.)

Mr. INWARDS and Mrs. Barnes both requested that Mr. W. would go on; the latter was anxious to be present.

The audience then called loudly for him to go on.

Mr. WYATT then alluded to the experiments that had been performed in the morning, and said the party assembled were not satisfied with them; accordingly they had a consultation, and the surgeons and other gentlemen agreed to a series of tests, and did him the honor to confide them to his hands. "Now," said Mr. W., "before I enter upon the subject, I beg to say that I do it most reluctantly in the presence of Mrs. Barnes; for I feel that, however careful I may be, something may fall that may wound her feelings, and no matter what the result of the tests may be, I cannot forget she is a woman—(loud cheers.) Most earnestly do I wish the patient had been a man—I should then feel no compunctions (hear); but since my suggestion has not been taken, I cannot avoid doing that which I very much regret. To that lady I now address a few words. I ask most sincerely that she will not consider I have any strong feeling against her, and that my observations may be understood not to have reference to Mrs. Barnes, a private lady, but to an individual of that name who appears in public and professes to be a Mesmeric subject—(loud cheers.) Now to the result of the experiments. I took the great precaution which I had hitherto been omitted, namely, to keep my hand behind the patient, and stand beside her, rather than to adopt the course practised by the lecturer, to keep in front, and pass the hands from that direction to the organ said to be acted upon. As you noticed, I began talking to her, and whilst talking on some irrelevant subject I pointed two fingers towards the organs of language, and with two fingers of the other hand pointed to the organ of veneration. No manifestation of the latter was exhibited at all, where she could not see me point my fingers; but my others being pointed in front of her, she began asking me if I could speak French, and said she should like to learn it. I spoke one short phrase; she told me to go on. I spoke another, and asked her if she could not speak some to me. She replied that she could not. Now, it is proved that in an excited state of the organs of language, the party will remember and repeat passages of foreign languages as well as the native which he or she has heard for years back. There was, however, no manifestation of this kind here, nor was there anything to denote a great action of these organs beyond one or two very brief remarks. The organ of veneration having totally failed to manifest itself, I quietly removed my fingers to adhesiveness, still keeping my other fingers at language. I of course expected a fine burst of eloquence and a strong display of friendship towards me; but what was the result? Why, as you saw, she simply said she was very cross with me!—A curious manifestation of the organ of attachment. I then removed my fingers and pointed to the organs of imitation, and although I again engaged her in conversation, and kept my fingers over these organs for some time, I most unequivocally assert that no manifestation of this organ, either by word or action, was displayed—(hear, hear.) I then pointed to constructiveness with the same result. Secretiveness I then challenged, and it could not but be observed by all that the moment I took my fingers from the organs of language, or from pointing to parts of her face, her head was turned round or her face turned upwards.

Mr. INWARDS:—That is quite natural: a Mesmeric patient always seeks after the Mesmerizer when he leaves her.

Mr. WYATT:—But unfortunately for your argument, I stood partly in front of her and partly by the side of her—(hear, hear.) I challenged the organs again, and declare faithfully without the least effect being produced. I then tried the series of experiments with regard to taste. I put a lump of sugar in my mouth and sucked it, as the audience could see, but not a single sign of tasting was exhibited by Mrs. Barnes. After this I took a little water out of a tumbler carelessly; she could hear me ask for it, and hear me sip it, so of course she smacked her lips and told me the water was nice. I then turned myself a little behind her, and took a phial of pyro-ligne acid (white vinegar). I had some difficulty in getting the cork out, and made a clumsy affair in tasting it, and as it was very strong I made a somewhat loud gulp, so that any person near me might hear. Mrs. Barnes instantly smacked her lips; I asked her what she had been drinking, and she said—"water." After this I had a phial of port wine, which I uncorked better, and drank of it two or three times, but no sign of drinking was shewn by the patient. I continued to perform these experiments as much behind her back as I could, which prevented any chance of her seeing even if she opened her eyes wide. Mr. Inwards then very uncourtously interfered again, and taunted me, as you heard, with not acting fairly. Of course I did not act fairly for him, because I gave his patient no opportunity of seeing what I was about. On being called to order, Mr. Inwards became rather vociferous, and said that he had no doubt Mrs. Barnes would go into hysterics, for there was no sympathy between her and me that ought to exist. What was the result of this speech? Why, as you saw, Mrs. Barnes very properly obeyed the directions prescribed by Mr. Inwards, and went into the most approved hysterics; from which however I recovered her, and then de-mesmerized or awoke her. On the platform sat several medical gentlemen, who watched me narrowly, as did also several friends of Mr. Inwards, and I appeal to them whether I did not give Mrs. Barnes every opportunity of proving whether Mesmerism had the effect upon the phrenological organs as asserted by the lecturer—(hear.) I not only gave her an opportunity of displaying the functions of the organs by action and gesture, but I actually challenged the organs of language at the same time, in order that she might describe what was passing in her mind. Gentlemen on the platform know that I did this several times, and they also know, and the audience know, that it most signally failed. I came prepared to search after truth, and to be convinced that the principles of Mesmerism were correct; but I required that some other person than the lecturer should operate, and that the experiments should be conducted with caution, in connection with the medical gentlemen on the platform. I consider that the fairest and simplest tests have been applied, and that they have all failed to satisfy any reasonable person of the truth of Mesmerism—(cheers.)

Mr. INWARDS then rose amidst cheers and hisses, and repeated his assertions that the operator had not dealt fairly with the subject—(cries of "Oh, oh.") Mr. WYATT had entered upon the experiments with a want of confidence in Mrs. Barnes, and treated her as if she were acting a part (hear), which was very unjust, for Mrs. Barnes was as pure a Mesmeric subject as ever existed—(hear, hear, and cheers.) Mr. I. then commented in strong terms on the unbelief of the surgeons, and said he was sick of the medical profession in Bedford, and he should address himself to the respectability of the meeting, the working classes

and mechanics—(loud hisses, which continued till Mr. Inwards had finished and the meeting was dissolved by the chairman.)

On Saturday evening Mr. Inwards gave another lecture, and repeated the same stale experiments, with the addition of Mrs. Barnes being called on by him to read when in her Mesmeric sleep. After very great difficulty, and repeatedly turning round to get her eyes to the stand and the book in a full light, she contrived to read the words "St. Paul," and in another book "tods of wool" and "stick"; but it was done in too clumsy a manner not to be detected by the bulk of the audience. She was then de-mesmerized amidst loud expressions of dissatisfaction and a few cheers.

The Rev. J. JUKES then mounted the platform, and made some observations on the lectures, which he said were insufficient to convert him, and commented on the immoral effects likely to result from phreno-mesmerism, the theory of which destroyed man's free agency. Mr. Jukes concluded a very logical speech by moving a resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting no experiment in favour of phreno-mesmerism that is not made on a person uninitiated in phrenology ought to be received as evidence in support of the science."

Mr. HEDLEY, surgeon, rose amidst great cheering, and made a very clever speech. He had attended all the lectures, and examined the operations very closely, and he was consciously of opinion that the bulk of them failed, and those which succeeded under the lecturer's hands were clearly deceptions, and had nothing in them beyond the tricks of any common conjuror. He then clearly demonstrated the deception practised with the enteleptic arm, and the affected locked-jaw of the patient, whereby she pretended to be unable to speak. It was notorious to everybody who had considered the subject that people could speak with a locked-jaw, although not comfortably, but could be well understood by those around them. Mr. Inwards pretended that his patient could not speak until her jaw was unlocked, and then went through the farce of waving his hand over her mouth—(hear, hear.) Mr. Hedley then went on to expose the rest of the trickeries, and explained how they had been put to shame in Paris and elsewhere. Mr. Hedley concluded by seconding the resolution.

Mr. FRANCIS GREEN defended Mr. Inwards and Mrs. Barnes from the calumnies which had been thrown upon them, and moved the following amendment—"That, whatever may be the opinion of the meeting respecting Mesmerism as a science, it does not impute intention to deceive on the part of Mr. Inwards and Mrs. Barnes."

Mr. SKENE seconded the amendment, and made some lengthy remarks on education.

Mr. BARKER and Mr. BLOWER, surgeons, and Mr. WHITE made some excellent observations on the deception which had been practised, and clearly proved that the organs had not correctly manifested themselves, even if the Mesmeric sleep had been induced, which they however decidedly pronounced impossible.

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution, which was carried almost unanimously, and the amendment was as unanimously voted against. The meeting then broke up.

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FRANCIS ANTHONY MESMER, M.D.  
Copied from the only authentic portrait published in  
this country.

#### MESMERISM.—II.

The believers in animal magnetism of the present day declare that their process, and the result of their manipulations, differ materially from those of Mesmer and his immediate followers; placing on one side therefore any deductions that may have been drawn for the proceedings of the first practisers of the art, let us see to what the Mesmerists of the present day lay claim.

They say that by certain manipulations, which are well understood, that in the first instance, a state of *coma*, or mesmeric sleep, takes place, and, in the words of Dr. Elliotson, "the patient becomes insensible to all around, but may have the inward senses augmented as in common extasis—may sing well for the first time in his life, and talk so unguardedly as to disclose secrets. The external senses may become so impenetrable, that a pistol fired in the ear is not heard, nor melted wax dropped on the body felt, nor ammonia applied to the nostrils perceived, although the gentlest word of the operator (magnetiser) is heard and answered; water similarly treated (magnetised) by him, tasted and found ferruginous, and his gentlest touch recognised. A delightful feeling of ease and lightness is experienced, the body grows warmer, and perspires freely, though sometimes anxiety, palpitation, slight convulsions, and wandering pains, take place. On the first attempt, these occur, generally, without sleep-waking, the person is unconscious of all that has occurred, but when thrown into the state again, recollects the whole and converses on it. The magnetiser can put an end to this state at pleasure: and when he is a good magnetiser, and the patient very susceptible, a single movement of the hand may instantly magnetise, and even knock down, and kill—a look may magnetise; and we are told that all these effects may sometimes be produced at great distances by the mere volition of the magnetiser."

"But this is not all; we are assured that matters often go much further: that a person can often be so highly magnetised, not only as to taste magnetised water, and recognise the magnetiser by hearing and touch, but even to perceive objects of sight, hearing, taste, and smell by the epigastrium, fingers and toes—by the organ of touch, so as to read a letter by these parts, even though it be folded in several envelopes; nay more, to discover a person in the next room, though the wall intervene; to foretell events entirely relating to others, and describe things going on at incalculable distances, as well as learn the thoughts of persons present; to relate the most minute points regarding persons who touch them, though never seen before; to see the interior structure of his own body, and describe the seat and appearance of a diseased organ; predict the future events of a disease of either himself or others, and point out the remedy. This state is called "Clairvoyance."

Although all the believers in Mesmerism do not go to the extent of believing in Clairvoyance, with that exception, the above may be considered as a fair

statement of their creed. The application of animal magnetism is chiefly resorted to for the cure of disease, and there is no doubt that in many cases the disorder is relieved, but a few instances of the effects produced by an excited imagination will prove that the latter is fully capable of producing the same results, as far as the cure of diseases is concerned.

At the siege of Breda, in 1625, the garrison were dreadfully afflicted with scurvy, and their spirits depressed in such an extreme degree that the soldiers threatened to deliver up the town to the enemy. The Prince of Orange, when he heard this, addressed a letter to them, promising speedy relief, and accompanied it with medicines against the scurvy, said to be of great price and of still greater efficacy. Three small phials were given to each physician, not enough for two patients, and it was publicly given out that three or four drops were sufficient to impart a healing virtue to a gallon of water. The result was (the spirits of the men having been raised by the prince's letter) the disease was cured in a very short time.

Turner mentions a young gentleman, who became so disgusted by a course of violent emetics, that he could vomit by merely thinking of the subject, and the very sight of a bolus, or even the mention of one in the course of conversation, had the same effect.

Imagination has also been the cause of disease, as well as its cure; an unfortunate occurrence of this nature occurred during the prevalence of the Asiatic cholera, a few years back. To test the contagious nature of the disease, several medical men offered a reward to a careless fellow, who apparently had no dread of the disorder, on the condition that he would sleep in the bed of a cholera patient, who had recently died; the task was readily undertaken; deeming it possible, however, that imagination might have more to do with the case than contagion, the man was placed in a perfectly clean bed; but no doubt in the stillness of the night a feeling of fear arose, and before proper relief could be afforded he fell a victim to his imagination, dying of a confirmed cholera.

Bread pills have proved themselves as efficacious as the strongest drastic, and a story is told of a French physician, which may possibly be true, who, having written a prescription for his patient, handed it to him saying "Prenez cela" (Take that); the man supposing he spoke literally, swallowed the paper instead of the medicine, and with an equally beneficial effect. We have, in our last number, noticed the effects produced by the application of the imitation metallic tractors; the following are two instances of their mode of acting on the imagination:—

"Five cases were chosen of chronic rheumatism in the ankle, knee, wrist, and hip; one of the patients had also gouty pains, and all of them had been ill for several months. The wooden tractors were then applied, and all the five patients, except one, assured us that their pain was relieved, and three were much benefitted. One felt his knee warmer, and he could walk much better, as he showed us with great satisfaction. One was easier for nine hours, until he went to bed, and then the pain returned. One had a tingling sensation for two hours. The wooden tractors were drawn over the skin so as to touch it in the slightest manner."

"A servant girl afflicted with a most acute headache, which she declared had rendered her nights restless for nearly a fortnight, readily submitted to the application of these potent electrical instruments, as they were called. They were moved about near her forehead, never touching her, and in four minutes she said she felt a slight chilliness in the head; in a minute or two more she felt as if cold water was running down her temples, and the pain was somewhat diminished, but in the space of ten minutes she declared the headache entirely gone. The following day she came to thank the operator for the good night's rest he had been the cause of her enjoying."

It is a well known fact that the various emotions of the human mind may be roused by the most trivial causes, and under their influence the body is violently acted upon. A feeling of shame or bashfulness will cause the blood to rush to the face and neck of a girl or an ingenuous youth. Fear stops the circulation of the vital fluid, and the features become pale; if the effect be violent, the limbs tremble, or a fit of apoplexy takes place, succeeded possibly by death. In anger the veins are distended with blood, and every muscle quivers. Joy, hope, love, all produce their effects upon the human organization, through the human mind; why, then, should not the mere look of the magnetiser produce astonishing effects upon a susceptible patient? The noise of the school-room is hushed at the entrance of the master, that is, if he is seen to enter; if he comes in unseen the effect is not produced, for the cause lies in the imagination of the pupils; they dread punishment



### MESMERISM.—III.

#### CLAIRVOYANCE.

Clairvoyance is the mystery, *par excellence*, of the practise of mesmerism; for if it be true, it exhibits a power in contradiction to all the established laws of Nature. The existence of a faculty of seeing objects at a distance, or when hidden from ordinary sight is no new notion. Cornelius Agrippa, who flourished at Cologne, in the fifteenth century, asserted that a man naturally, and without a miracle, unassisted by the Holy Spirit, or any other, might convey his thoughts in the twinkling of an eye, to another at any distance: "this" he said, "I myself knew how to do, and I often did it: and the late Abbas Trithemius, was also acquainted with the method and practised it." A professor of philosophy at Padua, Petrus Pomponatius, born in 1462, contended for the power of the imagination, or will of one person to send forth an influence upon another. At the beginning of the eighteenth century it is recorded, in Picart's work on religious superstitions, that a man confined in one of the provincial prisons, pretended to possess the power of seeing through any substance, except a piece of red cloth; his wonderful faculty became known in the neighbourhood, and the jailer's wife was in the habit of introducing her female acquaintance to the clairvoyant; on one occasion the prisoner burst out into a loud laugh, and when asked the cause, he shocked the feelings of one of the women present by asserting that she was deficient of one of the most usual garments of a lady's toilet, the truth of the imputation was acknowledged, and the fame of the man increased in proportion.

But this peculiar faculty of seeing through material obstacles has been claimed, in many instances, in modern days, in which it is clear no mesmeric influence can be supposed to have existed, and consequently even a mesmeriser must allow that they have either to be attributed to natural causes, or must have been the result of imposture; a few instances will suffice to illustrate this part of the subject, and show how open to deceit is the subject of clairvoyance.

Some few years back, a Scotchman exhibited a boy in London, at the Egyptian Hall and other places, whom he pretended to be gifted with what he called double sight, by means of which faculty he was enabled to tell the colours and other qualities of things, without seeing them, the names and ages of strangers in the room, and so on. But the father required that the objects should be, in the first instance shown to him, and the names and ages told him, or written down, the boy when questioned by the father, almost invariably answered correctly: the latter stated that he had five children, all gifted with this extraordinary double sight.

Unfortunately for the fame of the double-sighted youth, a man who exhibited a learned dog was at the Egyptian Hall at the same time, some dispute arose between the two worthies, and one fine morning, a large placard appeared, announcing a "Double-sighted Dog," and when put to the test, the dog was found to be capable of performing all the lad had done, and that much quicker, with one exception: in fact, as his master affirmed, he could do anything but speak. The success of this imposture was so great, that in the course of a few months, the wife of the master of the dog, made her debut, under the title of the "Mysterious Lady," and exhibited all the properties of double sight, and since that time she has travelled several thousand of miles through Europe and America, her faculty improving by practice.

In 1816, a young lady of Liverpool, Miss Mc Avoy, became blind at the age of fifteen, and she accidentally discovered it was said, the same year, that she could read with her fingers, "the Lives of the Saints," the "Life of Thomas a Becket," and the Bible. She told an object placed under two plates of glass by touching the upper plate of glass with her fingers, and could read with her fingers nine inches from the book by a convex lens, which she touched. But it is clear that if the lens could have assisted her fingers to see, it must have been when they were placed at that particular distance from it, at which the rays formed an image of the object, and not when they were in contact with it.

One hysterical young lady at Grenoble, whose case was read to the Philomathic Society, at Paris, was able to get through a great deal of business, for in copying letters she reap with her left elbow, and wrote with her right hand.

One of the peculiarities of magnetic sleep is said to be the utter forgetfulness when awake, of what transpired during sleep, and the instant recollection of every circumstance when again in the ecstatic state; much the same as the drunken porter, who having, while in an inebriated state, left a package with which he had been entrusted, at a certain house, was unable when sober, to remember where he had deposited it, but on the very first occasion when he again became tipsy, he found his memory and the parcel also.

Dr. Elliotson, the most honest and earnest supporter of animal magnetism limits his belief in the effects of mesmerism in the following manner: "But I have never witnessed any thing than what it is certain takes place in health and disease. I have seen persons sent to sleep, I have felt, and heard others declare they had tingling, and heard some declare they had various other sensations and pains. I have seen twitchings, convulsions, and spastic contractions of muscles, loss of power and muscle, and the most profound coma; I have seen these evidently and instantly removed by the process. I have seen one sense restored in the coma by the process, so that the person was insensible in taste, smell, sight, and yet heard and answered questions well. I have seen paroxysms of sleep-waking and ecstatic delirium, which had been originally induced by its disturbance of a system already epileptic, put an end to evidently, and in general quickly by mesmerism. But I have not witnessed persons seeing through walls or pasteboard, nor tasting nor smelling with the epigastrium or fingers; nor speaking nor understanding languages, they had never learnt, nor telling the circumstances, past, present, and to come, of persons they had never before heard of." In his later writings, however, the doctor goes a step further he says: "I have mentioned my persuasion that persons in a mesmeric state may predict, without any guess, the changes in their own disease, and general health, but no more." This seems to be the extent of his faith.

The supposed faculty of clairvoyance is so open to deception on the part of the patient, or of collusion between him and the operator, that all those who earnestly and honestly wish to examine philosophically the wonderful properties of the mind, that have been incidentally developed during the manipulations of mesmerism, would do well to detect and drive from the field the host of impostors, who eager only to astonish, care not to what tricks they resort for that purpose. Such trash as the following, perhaps, will illustrate this point.

"Do you see any other picture over the mantel-piece?" "Yes; I see a little boy." (Wrong.) "Look again; are you sure it is a boy?" "No; it is a lady." "Is there any thing remarkable about her?" "Yes; she has a scarf of several colours over her shoulder." (The picture is a miniature, by Conway, of a lady in the character of Flora, and has a garland of flowers over the shoulder, crossing her

bosom.) "Now tell me what other picture you see?" "I see one with large trees, mountains, and a great deal of water." "What else do you see in it?" "A bridge, a boat with two men, and a house—no, not a house, but a rock." (There is this singularity about these particulars: the picture once had a bridge in the middle distance, and a boat, with two figures in it, which, however, for some artistic objections, as disturbing the sentiment of the composition, have been painted out.) The questioner is not at all conscious that the memory of this fact at all presented itself to his mind during the conversation about the picture.

Wishing to try the effects of mesmerised water, I procured a tumbler full, and gave it to her to drink, asking her if she knew what it was." She replied, "Yes, it's water." I then took the glass from her, made some passes over the liquid (though I doubt whether this was necessary, or had any effect), and willed that it should be 'wine,' thinking at the time of 'sherry wine.' I then gave her the glass, and asked her to drink, and tell me what it was. She sipped the water twice, and then told me 'that it was wine.' I asked her if she knew what wine. She said, "Yes, sherry." I again took the glass from her, made some fresh passes over it, and willed the liquid to be 'beer.' I then gave it to her, and again requested her to drink, and tell me what it was. She did so, taking the glass from her lips, once or twice to consider; she then told me 'that it was beer.' I said, "Nonsense, it is water." She replied, "No, it is not; it is beer; I can smell it quite strong."

The most violent opponent of animal magnetism will not deny that the subject of these irregular and extraordinary powers of the mind is one that well deserves attention but it never can receive that calm and dispassionate notice it requires, while the extravagant pretensions of charlatans are allowed to go unnoticed. Such cases as the following for instance, if carefully selected and verified, would tend much to elucidate the subject, and improve our knowledge of the wonderful works of the immaterial portion of our nature.

A poor girl in Scotland, seven years of age, looked after cattle at a farmer's and slept next to a room often occupied by an itinerant fiddler of great skill, and in the habit of playing his most refined pieces of music at night, but his performance was always spoken of by the child, as a most disagreeable noise. She fell ill, and was removed to the house of a benevolent lady, whose servant she became. Some years after this change, she had fits of sleep-waking, in which, after being two hours in bed, she became restless, and began to mutter, and after making sounds precisely like the tuning of a violin, would make a prelude, and then dash off into the most elaborate pieces of music, clearly and accurately, and with the most delicate modulations. She sometimes stopped, making the sound of returning her instrument, and began exactly where she left off. After a year or two, she imitated an old piano also, that she was accustomed to hear in her present residence, and in another year began to talk, describing fluently, acutely, and wittily, and with astonishing mimicry, and abundance of illustration and imagery. For several years she was ignorant of all around her during her paroxysms; but at the age of sixteen she began to observe those who were in her apartment, and could tell their number accurately, though the utmost care was taken to have the room darkened, and when her eyelids were raised, and a candle brought near the eye, the pupil seemed insensible to light, she soon became capable of answering questions, and noticing remarks made in her presence.

During the whole period of this remarkable affection, which seems to have gone on for ten or eleven years, she was, when awake a dull awkward girl, very slow in receiving instruction, though much care was bestowed upon her, and in point of intellect much inferior to the other servants of the family. "She was probably," observes Dr. Elliotson, "very reserved and contemplative, and could learn in her own way only; the really cleverest children are often considered stupid, while the quick and prattling, who turn out but ordinary adults, are thought prodigies."



## MESMERISM.

Sup. Aug. 8 1841

The public will have occasion to rejoice at the success with which we have put down this gross and dangerous quackery, and at the decided manner in which we have defeated the frauds, and exposed the ignorance and stupidity, of *The Times* on this subject; but, that ever depraved and bare-faced journal, instead of getting out of its awkward scrape manfully, escapes in a manner which shows that its attempts to deceive the public were wilful, and founded on the most corrupt motives. *The Times* had two long articles praising this wretched imposition to the skies; but, after our severe castigation, the rogue had two articles on the subject in the same paper (Tuesday), the one in favour of Mesmerism, and the other against it, and after thus disgracefully taking both sides at once, on the following day it comes out with a well-written article blowing Mesmerism to atoms.

We witnessed, on Monday, at the Hanover-square-rooms, another of the grossly fraudulent, the cruel and disgustingly indecent exhibitions of Mesmerism, and it is the last we ever will witness. How modest ladies can sit out such an exhibition is little to their honour, but it has often been our lot to see public spectacles and exhibitions at which the impure of the sex have blushed and retired from the scenes of indecency, whilst the chaste matrons and delicate young ladies have remained to witness and even enjoy the sight. We believe that if a dozen of the more respectable class of prostitutes were taken to witness this Mesmerism, not three out of the twelve would remain in the room; and not one out of the whole number could be induced to repeat the visit; and we are convinced that if a hundred of the lower classes of prostitutes were selected, not one would degrade herself to the extent of sitting in a chair before a large company, and suffer a man to be "making his passes," or pawing or fumbling about the organs of generation in the manner which we witnessed the operator to inflict his charms and conjurations on a young girl on Monday last. The same disgusting actions are repeated to men, and a boy; to the latter more offensively than to the others, but we were astonished when two young men (professing to be members of Cambridge University, and one having his father with him), voluntarily seated themselves in the chair, and suffered this bearded mountebank to assimilate to taking those indecent liberties with their persons, for any attempt at which any man ought to knock another down, and every Magistrate would justify the assault, and send the indecent offender to the Sessions. We should be very sorry to keep company with either of such Cambridge gentlemen, one of whom professed himself of Caius College. His name ought to be exposed. Even *The Times* of Wednesday denounced this unmanly, this unnatural performance, which men and boys could submit to, and which women, with shame be it spoken, could witness without disgust. Such things are as bad as the celebrated quack of Pall-mall, Dr. Graham, who formerly exhibited naked females (one of whom was Lady Hamilton), and then lectured on his spring beds, and other contrivances, for ladies and gentlemen who had large estates or good fortunes, with no children to inherit them. The police interfered then, and might now do the same.

On Monday a translator, or interpreter, told the company that touching was not necessary to the operation; then why touch, or pretend to do so,—that children were the fairest subjects, as they could not be taught impositions, and that success depended on the patient's susceptibility and predisposition, and he forthwith produced a stunted, cadaverous girl, quite old enough for tricks, but whose face, poor creature, evinced very little of susceptibility! She was "up to it," and, of course, duly mesmerized. The only other patient was the boy, the constant victim, and whose health has evidently very much suffered by his frequent exposures to these painful and harassing tricks. A spectator observed, that it was fraudulent always to have the same patient, and he long in the pay and service of the mesmerizer. On which M. Lafontaine replied, that, in a place like London, it was difficult to procure a succession of patients; and yet we should have supposed that London, of all places in our empire, is that which could the most easily supply them by the hundreds. A spectator urged that it was cruel, useless, and most unsatisfactory, to victimize the boy; he had borne all the experiments already, and had played his part before, and could consequently bear the one and play the other again. However, the jugglery \* proceeded; and, in the midst of it, a scoundrel jumped on the stage and played his part, in collusion with the quacks, and whilst he was so doing, a cowardly villain contrived to run a knife in the boy's thigh, which brought plenty of blood, and evidently occasioned commensurate pain, in spite of the mesmeretic sleep and insensibility. The first of these worthies was much pressed for his name, and, at last, he reluctantly said it was Jackson. It being very easy to call out Tom Smith, Jack Jones, Bill Smith, or John Jackson, this gentleman was asked for his address, which he avoided giving by saying, he was Mr. Jackson of St. Bartholomew's. But he was not let off so easily, and the awkward querist, a connexion of this paper, asked him what he was at St. Bartholomew's? and at this he was confounded, and merely replied, "I am of St. Bartholomew's Hospital." He was then asked whether he was a "Pupil, dresser, house-surgeon, or what?" and it was clear that he was totally ignorant of the distinctions, but caught at the word pupil, and said he was a pupil. The next question of course was, under what surgeon he had entered and paid his admission fees to, but he could only reply that, "he was a pupil of the Hospital." He was told that no man could be a surgical pupil of a Hospital without his being under one of the three Head-surgeons, and, on the name of Mr. Lawrence being mentioned, he took advantage of the querist's incaution in supplying him with the name, but even in this he blundered, by ejaculating that he was a pupil of Dr. Lawrence. This blunder was fatal, for, although the vulgar confound Doctors and Misters, Surgeons and Physicians, the mistake is never made by the profession, or by men of education. To the last, he refused to give any address; and, we merely mention this to show the collusions practised. By the by, the two youths from Cambridge, to neither of whom we could apply the "*ingenui vultus*," being asked for their address, refused to give any, and on one (of Caius) being asked if he could be found in the Cambridge Almanac, confessed he could not.

Whether the science exist or not, or to what degree, or whether the whole be what we believe it, an impudent imposition in some, and a strong self-delusion in others, is not the point. All we contend for here is, that the exhibitions of M. Lafontaine are not conducted in the usual style of medical scrutiny, but in a manner which not only admits of every species of fraud, but which actually justifies and provokes suspicion. For instance, were such a man as "the Wizard of the North" sufficiently dishonest to play such a part, he could jugglerise the company ten times better than M. Lafontaine, and Heaven knows, that a vast number of the company seem sufficiently credulous to be bamboozled without difficulty. There is no merit in cheating such an audience. The imposition should be suppressed, for it pollutes our hospitals, and leads to other corruptions, most injurious to patients. Re-

ference has been made on this subject to one of the physicians of Middlesex Hospital, and let us only state, that to such a scandalous excess was superstition and delusion recently carried in that hospital, that the house-surgeon of it published a work proving that the secretions around the kidneys were the identical sacred oil mentioned by Moses, and that diseases of the kidney could be cured by the Pentateuch. This is on a par with the late Capt. Brenton's delusions, who, in his "Naval History," stoutly contends that the dry rot can be cured by a prescription in a chapter of Exodus, which merely directs that one dove should be allowed to fly over the infected structure, whilst the ear, and we believe the nose, of a priest should be tipped with the blood of another dove. Had Dr. Elliotson been allowed to proceed in his notions of supernatural visions and miraculous disclosures, and his predictions of the day on which his patients were to die, we should have had the London University Hospital a scene of nothing but folly on one side and murder on the other; for if a doctor is such a victim of delusions to the extent of miraculously foretelling the death of his patients, he has plenty of means of verifying his prophecies. Such a doctor might never be out at a guess. We heard a practising physician of fifty years old and upwards defend the monstrous lies and absurdities of the Rev. Mr. Townshend's assertions, that mesmerised patients could see without eyes. The physician argued that after amputation of a leg, the patient would feel for some time the pains which he might have been accustomed to feel in the obtruncated limb, and, therefore, the optic nerves could perform the functions of vision when the eyes were lost. Such false analogies are innumerable in certain minds, and they are as dangerous and destructive as they are innumerable. If a man, after the amputation of his leg, could walk without it, as well as he had formerly done with it, it would be analogous to a man's seeing after his eyes were out; but as, in one case, the man wants a wooden leg, in the other, perhaps, he may stand in need of a wooden eye. Had Dr. Elliotson been allowed to play his tricks at the hospital, he would not have stopped at Mesmerism—for when once a system of delusion commences, the torrent of them is prodigious and overwhelming—and Mesmerism might give way even to Bibleism; and Moses and Aaron, Ezekiel, or King David, might be referred to instead of Celsus, Galen, or Hippocrates. Mesmerism is sixty years old; and not a single new fact or principle has been elicited. Learned bodies have investigated it, and denounced it as delusion and quackery, and not one has given it its sanction. No respectable surgeon or physician has ever practised it, except in a very few cases of strong and most unfortunate idiosyncrasy, such as that of Dr. Elliotson's. Although Mesmerism is to make wonderful cures of incurable diseases, the patients at these exhibitions, whether mesmerised once, or one hundred, or one thousand times, always revive with the fits not having a particle of effect, good, bad, or indifferent. If it can perform the wonders attributed to it, why are there not more mesmerisers, medical and non-medical, resident and itinerant. If the subject were respectable it would be met one way, or

the other by the College of Surgeons, or that of Physicians; and yet these learned bodies do not condescend to take the slightest notice of it. In Germany, the place of its birth, it has made no progress, and yet the Germans are the best scrutinizers, the closest reasoners, and the men of all others the most free from prejudices. Why is it not adopted by our Military and Naval surgeons? "It were a desperate stratagem to shoe a troop of horse with felt," according to Lear, but it would be a by far better plan to mesmerise your enemy's cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and to let our soldiers march fearlessly into a battery, on the assurance that the guns could not fire, for they were all mesmerised and fast asleep. The Christians of yore had a vast number of magical contrivances in war, but nothing to equal Mesmerism. Finally, let the case be what it may, we warn all persons from trusting life or health in the hands of any regular surgeon, apothecary, or physician, who has a faith in Mesmerism. The parson's work, at best, is a tissue of abominable falsehoods, and M. Lafontaine's experiments deserve a coarser name. On Monday he was requested to try the experiment of a weight on the boy's legs, and after shuffling off, by various silly excuses, he was at last forced by "pressure from without," to comply; and all he did was to place on the ankle of the boy a small cotton table-cover, that could not have weighed six ounces and some gentleman's hat. This occasioned ridicule and indignation. A gentleman slyly thrust a pinch of snuff up the boy's nose, and he began to sneeze, although he was so mesmerically insensible that he could bear, without sensibility, ammonia, at least a hundred times more powerful than snuff. The police ought to interfere, for the sake of humanity; and M. Lafontaine ought not to permit any body to mount his stage without declaring his name, profession, and address; for the cruelties practised on Monday on this unprotected foreign boy were most shameful, and the cowardly villain who stabbed him in the thigh ought to have been given in charge to the police. The whole scene was cruel, indecent, immoral, and palpably fraudulent.

MEANS OF PRODUCING SLEEP AT WILL.—There is no journal in existence so susceptible of being humbugged as *The Times*. The other day the Editor fell into a trap which had been set for him by M. Lafontaine, the mesmeriser, and he had scarcely escaped from it by making an apology, than he has fallen flop into another. Read the following paragraph, taken from an early number of *The Times* during the past week:—"SLEEP AT WILL.—A mode of producing sleep without narcotics has been for some years communicated to any one desirous of obtaining the acquaintance with it by a gentleman of the name of Gardner, and we understand that he has instructed hundreds in the art, many of whom have borne public testimony to his success. From the actual experience of persons in whom we have been long accustomed to place entire confidence, it seems to be ascertained that his remedy for sleeplessness requires no particular condition of the human constitution; that it is equally applicable to both sexes, and to persons of any age; that it overcomes the effects of mental anxiety or of bodily pain, unless the former be excessive, or the latter unusually violent and acute; that it is equally available in bed, on a sofa, in an elbow chair, a carriage, or a steam-boat; that the process can be repeated as often as the patient may happen to be disturbed during the hours intended for repose; that no medicine need be administered, no external application, no aid from other persons; above all, there are no opiates of any description used, and the process is so evidently harmless that it may be adopted in any state of health or of disease, without the slightest hazard. It is so simple and obvious that it might have occurred to the mind of any one, but Mr. Gardner has the merit of being the first to make the discovery publicly known, and practically to teach the art. His plan possesses almost all the advantages derivable from narcotics, and is at the same time wholly exempt from any of the disadvantages well known to be attendant on that class of remedies. The sleep obtained is as perfect and as refreshing as the patient can enjoy under any circumstances, for it is thoroughly natural, and in no respect dependent on any causes which, properly speaking, might be called artificial. To some classes of insane patients it may be highly useful, and to the asthmatic, or to those labouring under chronic rheumatism, it must be peculiarly advantageous. It may, perhaps, be necessary to add, that neither animal magnetism, nor any thing resembling it, is ever resorted to by Mr. Gardner, on the contrary, he emphatically disclaims any knowledge of that so mis-called 'science.'" This wonderful discovery of Mr. Gardner, it appears, was the cause of a vast influx of letters to *The Times*. Many of the readers of that Journal, whose deeds would not let them sleep, applied to the Editor to be made acquainted with the wonderful Mr. Gardner's residence. In answer to all the communications, and to get rid of the business—for the Editor felt that he had again been imposed on—he directed the following notice to be inserted in his notices to correspondents:—"In consequence of a paragraph, which mentioned that a Dr. Gardner had discovered a process by which it is possible to produce sleep at will, we have received so large a number of applications for the address of the gentleman who professes to have invented so desirable a faculty, that we have no other means of replying to our correspondents than by stating that Dr. Gardner resides at No. 215, Piccadilly. At the same time, we beg to be understood, as expressing no opinion as to the Doctor's competency to make good his professions." After stating that Dr. Gardner's "plan possesses all the advantages derivable from narcotics," the Editor has now the assurance to announce that he was not to be understood as expressing an opinion on the subject! Very modest. D.W.P. Sep 18 41



# ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Impartial are our eyes and ears — RICHARD II.

MR. EDITOR,—I have read with great interest the different articles which have appeared in the daily and weekly press on Mesmerism, and few have been so impartially written, or have a greater anxiety to approach the truth of the subject, than your own. The public owe you a debt of gratitude, for, although it might be supposed that a quackery, which is so entirely contrary to our animal economy, and the object of which is to supercede rules and practices which have always been looked up to as correct and efficacious, would have undergone the deepest scrutiny before it could be placed before us as it has been; yet the public, or part of the public, always open to delusion, have been sacrificed by paying their money for the furtherance of an imposition, and might have continued to do so, had you not so ably come forward and opened their eyes to the trickery. Such a science as Animal Magnetism, which, as Deslon, the Deputy of Mesmer, said in his report,\* handed in to the Commissioners appointed by Louis XVI., in 1784, is the only remedy for "the ills that flesh is heir to," would have been, ere now, if there had been any truth in it, in a very different position in the Medical world. The argument, that physicians and surgeons would not inquire into its merits, because it would destroy their own practice, is false; for Mesmer or Deslon (I forget which), says, that it is a means by which medicines could be made to produce greater effects on diseases than they do now. But in quackeries and impositions, the disciple often makes his practice different from the one taught to him by his master. What Mesmer practised is very different from what is now exhibited by M. Lafontaine. Thus the latter, when mesmerising an individual, commands the greatest silence to be observed; yet we read in the Report of the French Commissioners, that "sound is a conductor," and during the mesmeric process, a piano was placed in the room. But, Mr. Editor, you have not, nor have any of your contemporaries, quoted from the celebrated Report of the Commissioners, in 1784, nor have you given any of the numerous cases which are described in it. It appears to me that sufficient reasons are there given for the effects produced on the patients; and it would be both amusing and instructive to quote from it the most convincing proofs against animal magnetism; for the opinions of such men as Franklin, Lavoisier, Bailly, Bory, Le Roy and Guillotin, are not to be slighted. Bailly says, that M. Deslon, the representative of Mesmer, operated on many at a time. In the middle of the room was a large chest, called a *baquet*, which had holes in it, through which curved rods of iron were placed; the patients sat in a circle, with one another's thumbs and fingers joined, and the curved bars of iron were placed on the diseased parts; a tune was played upon the piano, for music diffused the mesmeric principle through the air. The patient, as it is said in *Hamlet*, "waxed desperate with imagination." This wonderful chest, more potent than "the wonderful lamp" of Aladdin, then produced divers sensations, convulsions, &c. The report goes on to say that "the least unexpected noise made the patient start," so that there was a great difference between an expected and an unexpected noise; and yet we have just seen that sound was a conductor. The sensations of these patients were so acute, that even a change in the measure of the music affected them. The crisis, or when either a convulsive and lethargic state had arrived, did not take place for one or two hours, and they were aroused from it by the voice of the operator. The Commissioners saw these effects, and consented to be magnetised themselves, but no alteration in their systems took place, and consequently they reported that "magnetism has no agency in a state of health, or even in a state of slight indisposition." The next experiments took place at Dr. Franklin's house, and the results were very unsatisfactory to the science. There were eleven persons operated upon, though no phenomena were produced; but it was rather an astounding fact that *all the patients of Deslon were easily magnetised*. A woman, a servant of Le Roy's, was next magnetised by M. Jumelin. When he placed his fingers to her head she said she felt a heat there; he then made some *passes* at her back and face with the same effects. She was now bandaged, so that she could not see; and when asked what she felt, she described the same sensations, although the magnetiser was not operating, and such was the force of imagination that she actually fainted. A very similar case, although characterized with a greater degree of impudence and effrontery in the magnetiser, occurred soon after. Mesmer asserted that he could not only magnetise human beings, but trees, fishes, and almost every thing he could think of. M. Deslon, therefore, mesmerised a tree in the presence of the Commissioners, which tree when embraced by the patient, would produce the required effects. The patient was blindfolded and led into the garden, with the knowledge of what they had just done. He was conducted by one of the commissioners to a different tree, and the result quickly exposed the humbug. He immediately on embracing the tree, felt a slight convulsion; he was taken to several others, one after the other, until the crisis was obtained, although the last tree was *twenty-five feet* from the one mesmerised. Another case was that of a woman in a separate room with the commissioners: in the space of three minutes, says the report, under the supposition that she was being magnetized, she began to feel a nervous shivering (*frisson nerveux*), then she felt a pain in her head and arms, and pricking in her hands, and became rigid, and stamped on the floor, and the crisis was obtained; at another time, under the belief that M. Deslon was magnetizing her, in another room, a woman bit her tongue so as to leave the marks of her teeth. Many are the cases which are put down in the report, but let me notice one which shows the mischief that magnetism may occasion. A lady, in order to remove some obstructions, consented to be magnetized. Her convulsions lasted *several hours*; persevering in the same treatment for three months, her convulsions were so frequent that she could no longer be conveyed to M. Deslon's house, but although she discontinued the operations, she became delirious, and an obstinate spasm of the œsophagus impeded deglutition, and in spite of medical aid she died in four days. The commissioners very properly came to the conclusion, that Animal Magnetism was imaginary, and that the effects on the patients were to be set down to the imagination alone. They say, "If we figure to ourselves a poor ignorant person, suffering from disease, and anxious to be relieved, brought before a large company, partly consisting of physicians, with some degree of preparation and ceremony, and subjected to a novel and mysterious treatment, the wonderful effects of which he is already persuaded he is about to

experience, and if, moreover, it is recollected he is paid for his compliance, and supposes that the experimenters will be gratified on being told that they perceived certain operations, we shall have natural causes by which these effects may be explained, or at least a very legitimate reason for doubting that the real cause is magnetism." Extraordinary phenomena, far greater than those I have enumerated, can be produced on the nervous system; and it has been known that, in the excitement of a battle, a soldier has not felt for some moments the pain from the loss of his leg by a cannon ball, nor, in an extreme case of drunkenness, is the nervous system easily affected, but is callous to kicks and blows, although they may be felt afterwards, when a state of sobriety ensues. I therefore am not astonished at the exhibition I witnessed at the Hanover Square Rooms, where needles and pins were stuck into the patient's arms and head. Although Mesmerism is making a stir now, which is to be attributed to the notices in the press, it cannot long do so. The excitement was extreme when it was first introduced into England by Dr. Mainauduc, in 1785, but it soon subsided, and will again. This doctor published a pamphlet, entitled, "Proposals to the Ladies." The quack says in it, that Mesmer revived the science from the ashes of the ancients, and that he offered Mesmer 4000 guineas for his secret, but the latter found his imposition to be more valuable to him, and would not part with it. He adds, that magnetism will need little assistance to support itself, and then asks fifteen guineas for his subscription. The impostor had the impudence to afterwards charge for a course of instruction from twenty-five to a hundred and fifty guineas. After Mainauduc came Mr. Cue, Mr. Louterbourg, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Parker, Dr. Bell, and others, who certainly were animal magnets, for they had, as an Irishman would say, an "innumerable number" of followers. Louterbourg had 3000 people wait on him, and the tickets of admission were from two to five guineas. This must have been a profitable occupation. But the best of the joke was, that a Mrs. Pratt quoted Scriptures in support of this wonderful science. "Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish, for I will work a work in your days, which ye shall not believe, though a man declare it unto you;" and again, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth in me the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto the Father," &c. The Animal Magnetism exhibition has been only equalled by what is called Perkinism. An American of that name came over here in 1795, and took out a patent for two metallic tractors, which he applied to the body for the cure of all diseases. Such was his success, that he left the country in six years, with £10,000.

VERAX.

\* There is but one nature, one disease, and one remedy, and that remedy is Animal Magnetism.—Deslon's Report.



A Ghost-story.



## MESMERISM AND TORYISM AT THE CARLTON CLUB.

MR. EDITOR—Having read in your (I am sorry to say) most widely-circulating paper, my friend, Dr. Elliotson's interesting account of his mesmeretic performances at the Carlton Club, I wrote to the Duke and Sir Robert Peel to be permitted to exhibit my experiments on the members. My request was refused, on the ground of my being not a doctor but a divine, and I consequently replied, that George the Third was cured of his madness by Dr. Willis, a clergyman, when the members of the faculty had failed; and I argued that if one parson could make a mad King sane, another parson could make sane people mad, and, on this mesmeretic legic, Wednesday evening last was appointed for my mysterious exhibition. At first the Baronet and the Duke took me into a private room, and locking the door and stuffing the key-hole, they proposed that I should mystify certain members of the party, that I should oblige others to be more cautious and silent, and induce others to keep their heads from posts which they obstinately would run against, to the great annoyance of their leaders and to the certain up-set of the Conservative interests, and that so far from making men see out of the forehead, the belly, the knee, or the *os cockygis*, as I solemnly swore in my book that I had done, they wished me to mesmerize certain persons so that they could not see at all. Looking over the four lists, I agreed to the secret proposal, provided they would give me a Prelacy, and particularly that of York, the venerable Archbishop being 94, his vacancy might be the soonest expected. Sir Robert and the Duke solemnly assured me that they had sacredly promised the Archbishopric to 47 Peers, and the first vacant episcopal see to 29 Lords and 17 rich and influential commoners, and that they had done the same with respect to Colonelcies of regiments, to all Military, Naval, and Civil offices whatever, and it was by this system alone that they hoped to gain and retain power. I argued that an archbishopric, promised to 47 Peers, must end in 46 being disappointed, and turning enemies to the party; but the Duke promptly replied, "But, Sir, in the meantime, I get their votes, and after that Peel will talk them over by excuses and new promises. He is the man for bothering a fellow out of his senses." Peel smiled, and squeezing my hand, said that they had given Dr. Elliotson nothing, that the secret service money, the Civil List, and Pension List, were all mortgaged twelve deep, but if I would wait I might depend on his generosity. He hinted at establishing a Bishopric at Sierra Leone, to gratify me with a mitre, but sneering at the idea of a statesman's promises of generosity, I disdained to disgrace my cloth by accepting a bribe, or by acting on any interested motives whatever, and with unsullied integrity I entered the great room to perform my mysterious, miraculous, mesmeretic mystifications, over 300 stanch Tories; and I most solemnly assure you, on the sacred word of a Clergyman, that the following account of what I did is as literally true as any thing and every thing I have stated in my work. Dr. Elliotson and Professor Lafontaine were present:—

Case 1.—It was said that I could not possibly mesmerize a man with an uncommonly thick skull and fat head, but I succeeded on Lord Kenyon, so that he began to roar most lustily for Colonel Fairman, for Orange Clubs, and for a general massacre of all Roman Catholics.

Case 2. Succeeded on the Earl of Aberdeen, who vociferated most loudly for deposing the Queen, and putting the King of Hanover on the Throne. (Loud shouts of applause.)

Case 3. Success on the Duke of Wellington. His Grace exclaimed, "Surprised at Waterloo, beaten; Blucher saved me, Marshal Ney, flight from Busaco and Talavera. Shall be upset this Session if Tory Peers are disobedient, and ask too much," &c. His Grace began to mention individual Lords and Commoners, with the terms they demanded, but Sir Robert Peel most earnestly begged me to unmesmerise his Grace, which I did immediately.

Case 4. Succeeded eminently on Sir R. Peel. I placed his face at the back of his head, and the back of his head where his face should be. I made him see from his forehead, or shoulder blades, &c., and speak from his stomach, fingers, and elbows, &c., but all I could do I could not make him speak from his heart or mind. The Baronet was a perfect Proteus, and "was every thing by starts, and nothing long."

Case 5. Lord Stanley was quickly affected. In two minutes he placed the tip of his right thumb on the tip of his long-curved nose, and elongated and stretched out his fingers to the utmost, and then placing the tip of his left thumb on the tip of his right little finger, he elongated the fingers of his left hand to the utmost, and stretching them out as much as he could, he began to work his fingers of both hands about in an astonishing manner—the whole club being in roars of laughter. All Lord Stanley exclaimed was—"Peel, Peel, no go—won't do—quite awake." I consider this experiment as most pre-eminently successful.

Case 6. Lord Bexley wagered me two sovereigns that I could not mesmerise him. "Done," said I, "and done and done, is enough between gentlemen." I succeeded; but he tried to escape payment, by quibbling about Nature having from youth mesmerised him into a perpetual drowsiness and torpor. The Club cried "Shame! shame!" and Lord Bexley paid me the money, wrapped up in silver paper. When I got home, I found that the paper contained an old flimsy or one pound note and a brumagem sovereign, downright brass. Lord Bexley evidently had been thinking of his old financial schemes and of the currency question.

Case 7. I mesmerised Sir Andrew Agnew and twelve of the Saints, and they all fell on their knees; but Peel and Wellington declared that the saintly Members were always on their knees, either praying God to renounce somebody, or praying Ministers to give them something.

Case 8. I mesmerised the Marquis of Anglesea and Sir Henry Hardinge together. I restored the Marquis's right leg with the identical boot and stocking which it had on when it was shot off at Waterloo, and I restored to Sir Henry his left hand with the identical glove it had on when he lost it at Albuera. Both were delighted, but presently they discovered that it was only a change, and that the Marquis in getting back his right leg had lost his left arm, and that Sir Henry in getting back his left hand had lost his right leg. Neither liked the transmutation, and I mesmerised them to their former respective conditions.

Case 9. This was remarkable. I mesmerized Lord Cardigan, and he roared out like a town bull, "black bottles," and began spouting from Shakspeare, "Is this a cat o'-nine tails that I see before me." His next line was, "Oh, that an enemy should put a man in his mouth to steal away his brains!" &c.

Case 10. Mesmerized Lord Granville Somerset's hump off his shoulders, and I then mesmerized Lord Lowther's face and linen into a state of cleanliness.

Case 11. I found twenty-six Lords and sixteen Commoners, with heads too thick to be mesmerised. Lord Londonderry,

under mesmerism, kept exclaiming,—“Rob us the Exchequer, Peel; nothing's ‘too bad.’”

Case 12 Lord Lyndhurst, under mesmeretic influences, raved so much about old husbands with young wives, and quoted so much from Pope's January and May, and from Prior's poems of Hans Carvel and the Padlock, that the whole Club entreated me to unmesmerise him.

Case 13. Mesmerised, with difficulty, the Duke of Newcastle, and I could get out of him but three exclamations; namely,—“Has not a man a right to do what he likes with his own—I never could understand the difference between *meum* and *tuum*,” and then came the Latin maxim, which he enjoined to his son.

“Rem facias; rem,

Si possis, recte; si non, quocunque modo rem.”

His son, Lord Lincoln, solemnly promised to obey the parental injunction. The Duke sat close by my left side the whole evening, and when I entered the Club, I had in my left-hand breeches pocket a purse containing a shilling, two sixpences, and three fourpenny pices, and when I left the Club I found I had lost my purse.

Case 14. The last case afforded me the most astonishing proofs of the omnipotence of mesmerism. I was told that the process could not succeed with very thick skulled, dull, and wrong-headed men with hard skins, no feelings, and great muscular powers, but the event proved the reverse. In three minutes I so thoroughly mesmerized the Earl of Winchelsea, that his left arm became horizontally extended, and his right leg began to assume a horizontal position; and on my not obeying his order to desist, his thumb and forefinger of his left hand suddenly came like a vice or pair of pinchers to my nose, and the toe of the rigid right foot came repeatedly and violently in contact with my dorsal extremity, so that I was sent over six or seven benches, and to this hour the discolouration is very great. The whole Club acknowledged this was a very strong exhibition of the proper results and consequences of the art mesmeretic.—I am, Mr. Editor, in all Christian feeling as a Clergyman of the Church of England, yours, &c.

C. TOWNSHEND.

N.B. His Holiness the Pope has issued his Bull against mesmerism, a Scriptural proof of its truth to all good Protestants.

FROM THE ZOIST OF JULY, 1845.

Baillière, Regent Street.

## Extraction of Teeth in the Mesmeric State.

TO THE EDITOR OF “THE ZOIST.”

SIR,—I beg to offer to your notice, and if you think fit for insertion, the following case:

Miss C—— had suffered from a spinal complaint for ten years, and the powerful remedies used to facilitate a cure, acting upon the Teeth and Gums, caused intense suffering, and finally decay of almost all, and loss of many of the molars; the pressure being transferred to the incisors, they were soon reduced to stumps, and mastication being impracticable, indigestion followed as a matter of course.

The case growing serious, it was determined to have recourse to artificial substitutes, to do which, with accuracy, it was requisite to remove *ten teeth and stumps*, and that the operation might be performed *without pain*, Dr. Elliotson recommended that myself and Mr. Vernon should be applied to for assistance.

The result is as follows:—

April 4, 1845. Mesmerised by Mr. Vernon for the first time. In five minutes there was a quivering and moving upwards of the eye-ball, in two minutes more the lids fell; the head went gently backwards, and volition appeared to be destroyed, the arms falling heavily if raised. In five minutes she sat up and began to talk, said she saw the magnetizer, and a beautiful light,—*bluish*; felt sparks when touched; could see the fingers if passed before her closed eyes; felt the hand hot, but was very easy and comfortable.

Continued to mesmerize her daily, till Wednesday the 16th, during which the same state was induced, with occasional insensibility of only a few minutes duration; manifested the sympathy of taste with extraordinary precision, and is clairvoyant, seeing, or rather knowing how many persons are in the room, and if any are strangers; discerning objects at the top and back of the head, and reading fluently ordinary sized print with the eyes closed; one strange fact occurring, viz., the book being royal octavo, “*The People's Phrenological Journal*,” the finger was moved along the lines, within six lines of the bottom of the double columns, while she read correctly the lines at the top of the page.





Viro Nobilissimo, Excellentissimo, Domino DAVYDO THOMAN, IC.<sup>to</sup> Consiliario Reip. Au.  
gustanae. Premario, Scholarchae meritis. &c. Artium Fautori, Aestimatoresq. magno.  
Debiti cultus gratia offert et aëcat Joham Heinrich Schönfeld.











